

Appendix B: Faculty and Staff Talking Points

Here are suggested ways to speak with students after an unexpected death in the school community.

A. General Talking Points

- "I have some very sad news to share. A member of our community has died."
- "It's okay to feel a range of emotions—sad, angry, confused, or even numb."
- "We are here to support one another. You're not alone."
- "Let's take a few minutes to acknowledge this loss and talk about how we're feeling."
- "Support is available. You can talk to a counselor at any time."

B. For Violent-Related Loss

- Avoid speculation or graphic details.
- Emphasize: "If you or someone you know is struggling, please talk to someone. You are not alone."
- Remind: "There are resources and people who care and can help."

C. For Accidental or Sudden Loss

- "This was an unexpected tragedy, and we are all feeling the impact."
- "Sometimes life doesn't make sense, and it's okay to be confused or overwhelmed."

D. For Mass Casualty or Community Crisis

- "This event has affected many people, and it's normal to feel scared or anxious."

GRIEF SUPPORT RESOURCE LIBRARY

- "Safety is our top priority. We're taking steps to support and protect everyone."
- "It's okay to step away or ask for help if you need to."