

When Death Impacts Your School or Organization:

With an anticipated death of a student or staff member:

- Allow students to talk about their feelings
- If the child or adult has hospice care, with the families permission, invite the social worker or nurse to come to talk with the class
- Answer questions about the illness, disease, or disorder
- Reassure the students that the illness is not contagious
- Make cards for the person as a class
- Visit as appropriate
- Create acts of service for the family

After the death:

- Notify parents if possible before the students return to school
- Have a crisis team in place
- Be truthful and direct with students (in the case of suicide or other traumatic death talk to family before revealing specific information)
- Create opportunities of service for the family
- Visit as appropriate
- Attend the funeral or memorial service
- Establish a "safe" room for both students and staff
- Adjust schedules if necessary
- Offer opportunities for students to express their emotions

These are just a few suggestions. The most important is to have a plan and team in place ahead of time.

For more information, go to <http://grievingstudents.scholastic.com>.

You can also contact Kate's Club's Lane Pease or Liz Carson to find out about our crisis response and grief support for Atlanta metro schools and other youth organizations: lane.pease@katesclub.org or liz.carson@katesclub.org