Grief-Sensitive Schools

Bereavement resources to support grieving students
Our approach:

Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative
Our Connection:

Childhood Bereavement and New York Life

• Aligned with New York Life’s mission.
• To date, we have committed over $60 million to support and help advance the field of childhood bereavement.
• As a part of this effort, we identified and addressed key gaps in the bereavement field in need of attention – including grief support at school.
• Partnered with top 10 educational organizations to create the Coalition to Support Grieving Students.
• Launched the Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative to support school communities with grief support resources.
Our request*
to schools:

Agree to partner with New York Life on the New York Life Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative (GSSI)

• Agree to strive to be a Grief-Sensitive School
• Promote and encourage all school staff* to attend the GSSI presentation
• Participate in communication strategy around partnership
• Feedback and follow-up as needed

Strive to become a Grief-Sensitive School by increasing awareness of this issue and resources:

• Sharing information with school community about grievingstudents.org
• Reviewing relevant school policies and practices
• Providing specific professional learning opportunities
• Posting the “Grief-Sensitive School” decal in your building
• Utilizing the $500 grant to support school community in their efforts

*after the GSSI presentation
Our partnership with the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement

- Partner for over a decade
- Lead founding member of the Coalition to Support Grieving Students
- Addresses “grief support in schools” through the New York Life Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative
- Located at the Children’s Hospital of Los Angeles
Resources
Key Resources

Coalition to Support Grieving Students
www.grievingstudents.org
- Guidance Documents: Grief Over The Holidays
- Teaching training modules: How School Staff can Initiate Conversation and Offer Support
- Additional articles: Coping With the Death of a Student or Staff Member
- Parent resources: Handout: Supporting Your Child

New York Life Foundation – Bereavement Support
www.achildingrief.com
- State-by-state bereavement resource listing: bereavement centers, camps and support groups
- Free printed materials: After a Loved One Dies & Supporting Our Students

National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement
www.schoolcrisiscenter.org/
- COVID-19 pandemic resources: Supporting Grieving Students During a Pandemic – A guide to using the Coalition to Support Grieving Students materials
- Guides: Communicating with the Family
- Sample notifications and templates: Guidelines for Schools Responding to a Death by Suicide
Coalition to Support Grieving Students

Founding Members

American Federation of School Administrators
AFSA, AFL-CIO

AFT

American School Counselor Association

NASSP
National Association of Secondary School Principals

NAESP
National Association of Elementary School Principals

AASA
The School Superintendents Association

NASP
National Association of School Psychologists

NEA
National Education Association

NASN
National Association of School Nurses

Children’s Hospital Los Angeles

NATIONAL CENTER FOR SCHOOL CRISIS AND BEREAVEMENT

New York Life Foundation

School Social Work Association of America
$500 Grant

The $500 Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative grant from the New York Life Foundation is to support your school’s goal to strive to become a Grief-Sensitive School.

To receive this grant, schools must*:

• Be an accredited K-12 public, private or charter school
• Have at least 5 school personnel from the school register for and attend the GSSI presentation from a New York Life GSSI Ambassador
• Agree to strive to be a Grief-Sensitive School based on the criteria listed above
• Complete a brief grant form

Suggestions for fund use:

• Host a “lunch and learn” about www.grievingstudents.org
• Update relevant school policies and resources
• Bereavement “lending” library
• Purchase resources to support grief in schools
• Create a supportive place for grieving students
• Special programming for students, school personnel and/or parents to discuss ‘grief in schools’

*Schools can only receive one grant through this program, no grants will be made in subsequent years to the same school
New York Life Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative

School toolkit

Thank you for joining over 3,000 schools in becoming a Grief-Sensitive School.

Welcome to the Grief-Sensitive Schools (GSSI) network. The Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative (GSSI) is part of New York Life's nationwide effort to better equip educators and other school personnel to care for the grieving students. Through the program, trained New York Life ambassadors connect with schools in their local communities to offer a brief 20-minute presentation on the grief in schools and the dedicated resources available. Schools that receive this presentation and agree to strive to become Grief-Sensitive may receive a small grant to support their efforts.

The GSSI program was developed to:
- raise awareness of the prevalence of children's bereavement;
- introduce the Coalition's industry-endorsed bereavement online resource and other bereavement resources;
- incentivize local schools/districts to raise awareness of both this issue and this resource in their school community; and


DECEMBER 2021
Printed and Digital Resources

**Booklets**
- After a Loved One Dies: How Children Grieve and How Parents and Other Adults Can Support Them
- Supporting Your Child Brochure
- Supporting Our Students Brochure

**Other resources**
- What to Say/Not to Say Tip Card
- Kai’s Journey and Discussion Guide
- First Book Discussion Guide

Order from [https://bereavement.newyorklifestore.com/](https://bereavement.newyorklifestore.com/)

*Most materials are available in Spanish

All New York Life bereavement materials listed are free of charge, and there is no fee for shipping.
Grief isn’t just one moment in time, it’s a journey.

In this series, we follow young Kai as he learns to cope with his ongoing loss. He’ll discover different coping mechanisms to help him through his grief.

**BOOK 1**

*The Golden Sweater*

In *Golden Sweater*, Kai grieves the loss of a parent and finds strength through a golden memento and his loving mother.

**BOOK 2**

*The Girl With the Locket*

In *The Girl With the Locket*, Kai learns the power of connecting with a new friend who has a similar experience.

**BOOK 3**

*The Fishless Lake*

In *The Fishless Lake*, Kai discovers that traditions are a valuable tool to keep the memory of his dad close.
Local Partners
Free support groups for bereaved children, teens and adults

CHILDREN’S GRIEF CENTER OF NEW MEXICO

505-323-0478
CHILDRENSGRIEF.ORG
How we help

Facilitated peer support groups
all ages and stages

Camp Corazon
Rural community support

Free Specialty workshops

Losing Library
Resources available to the public

Bereavement Facilitators

Statewide Training
GRIEVING CHILDREN, GRIEVING FAMILIES WEBINAR – THIS SATURDAY 2/26 10AM VIA ZOOM

Practical information for anyone in family, in community, or in professional relationship to grieving children.

Parenting Through Grief provides a framework for how to navigate parenting in the shadow of loss. With simple strategies to help you connect with your family during this difficult and painful time, Parenting Through Grief provides the comfort of knowing you can still parent with confidence and love.

Grieving Children, Grieving Families webinar attendees will receive a free copy of Parenting Through Grief.

Go to www.childrensgrief.org/events to register
Call 505-323-0478 or email info@childrensgrief.org to connect

"Every part of our lives are strengthened. We went from a feeling of hopelessness to a feeling of empowerment and strength."
~ Father whose son died

"When someone dies you come here and it helps."
~ 6 yr. old whose Dad died

"Well, I felt empty, lost & confused. I cried every night but the Grief Center helped me."
~ 13 yr. old whose father died of an overdose
Gerard’s House
...for grieving children

3204 Mercantile Court  Suite C
Santa Fe, NM 87507
Telephone:  505.424.1800 voice

Email: info@gerardshouse.org
https://gerardshouse.org/
Gerard’s House is your Santa Fe center for grieving kids and families. When a child or teenager experiences the death of a parent or other loved one, we are there with free grief support services and we have been since 1997.

Gerard’s House is here for everyone in our community who is grieving. Because so many families experience barriers when they need grief support, we energetically focus on reaching the city’s most vulnerable grieving youth—kids who have immigrated from war-torn and impoverished regions, kids coping with homelessness and kids who have attempted suicide.

Services include 18 weekly peer grief support groups, a mobile unit, suicide-prevention programs, individual sessions, a summer camp, crisis response services and support for parents/caregivers, all free of charge and bilingual for youth ages 3 – 21 who have experienced life-changing loss, such as the death of a parent or other loved one. We also provide 7 weekly grief support groups for adults in English and Spanish, all free of charge.
Grief Support Services include:

*Nuestra Jornada (Our Journey)* + weekly immigrant support groups for Latino immigrant students in Santa Fe schools who are grieving the death of—or separation from—a parent or family member.

**Grief Connections** + weekly peer bereavement support groups at Gerard’s House and in Santa Fe schools for children and youth who have experienced the death of a parent or other loved one. Concurrent support is also provided at Gerard’s House for parents and adult family members.

**Adult Grief Support Group** + offered year-round for all adults grieving the death of a loved one.

**Stepping Stones** * + mobile grief support unit goes to the homes of children, teens and families who are coping with a life-threatening illness.

**Crisis Response services** * + responds when a youth suicide or other death affects students.

**Suicide-prevention** * + Addressing youth attempted suicide and those who have contemplated suicide, this weekly peer support group is a collaboration between Gerard’s House, Semicolon group and the Sky Center/New Mexico Suicide Intervention Project.

**Grief support groups for homeless youth** * provided on-site at two Youth Shelters and Family Services locations for those experiencing youth homelessness, including young adults experiencing homelessness.

**The Young Parents/Teen Mom Nuestra Jornada Group** + Programs to help Latino pregnant teens and Latino teen parents, as well as their children. Gerard’s House meets their basic needs and helps young parents connect with each other, share their stories and receive nurturing, support and important resources.

* Mobile, + bilingual
Thank you.