

**GUIDELINES FOR STAFF SESSION**  
**SUPPORTING DOCUMENT TO**  
**THE IDAHO SCHOOL RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR SUICIDE AND SUDDEN DEATH**

Staff should be provided with:

- Current information regarding the death
- An opportunity to ask questions and express feelings
- If applicable, news articles about the death
- Information about suicide contagion
- Suicide risk factors and warning signs
- An updated list of referral resources
- Direction regarding how to interact with the media, i.e., refer all media to the principal or designee
- Plans for the provision of crisis intervention services
- A support mechanism to deal with their own self-care, e.g., EAP, a separate confidential support room
- Staff debriefing session at the end of the day

Specific activities/responsibilities for teachers include:

- Replacing rumors with facts
- Encouraging the expression of feelings
- Emphasizing that grief and stress responses are normal
- Discouraging attempts to romanticize the death or to criticize the student who died
- Identifying students at risk for imitative response
- Knowing how to make the appropriate referrals
- Standing outside your classroom door during passing periods

Address staff reactions including giving them permission to feel uncomfortable.