

## STUDENT TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL FOLLOWING A FAMILY DEATH

1. Identify the student's worries/concerns, if any, about returning to school. Discuss ways the student can respond to inquiries about what happened.
2. Release of information between school and any outside help he/she may be receiving, e.g., counseling if he/she has a counselor/therapist.
3. Are there any medical concerns that we need to be aware of as a result of an injury?
4. Does the physical or emotional health of the student indicate a need for a partial day plan as the student transitions back to school?
5. Until he/she returns can he/she do some school work?
6. Until she/he returns does s/he want or can s/he handle visits from school staff and friends?
7. Consider the need to build breaks into the student's schedule with opportunities to connect with the school counselor or other support person.
8. What are the signals/indicators s/he may need help or a break?
9. Note anniversary dates that may trigger reactions from the returning student (e.g., sibling's birthday, parent's birthday, etc.) and assign someone to monitor and address student needs at anniversary times.
10. Prepare classmates for his/her return to school. Discuss with classmates and perhaps develop a list of behaviors that would be helpful and not helpful. Incorporate this theme into class meetings.
11. Develop a communication plan between home and school. Consider the need to communicate with other professionals helping the student, such as mental health counselors.
12. Considered other school settings that may need help in preparing for the student's return, such as the bus, athletic teams, school clubs, etc.

