

STUDENT TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL FOLLOWING A FAMILY DEATH

FOR FAMILIES

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. Coordinate a release of information between school and any outside help such as a counselor/therapist.
3. Are there any medical concerns that district staff need to be aware of as a result of an injury?
4. 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.
5. Develop a communication plan between home and school. Consider the need to communicate with other professionals helping the student, such as mental health counselors.
6. Is the student able to do school work at home until returning to school?
7. Does the student want visits from school staff and friends?

FOR TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATORS

1. Consider the need to build breaks into the student's schedule with opportunities to connect with the school counselor or other support person.
2. What are the signals/indicators the student may need help or a break?
3. Prepare classmates for the student's 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.
4. Consider other school settings that may need help in preparing for the student's return, such as the bus, athletic teams, school clubs, etc.
5. Does the physical or emotional health of the student indicate a need for a partial day plan as the student transitions back to school?

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