

Training Instructions

Supporting Documents: PowerPoint Presentation, Key Considerations Related to Bereavement and Loss, Tabletop Exercise, Resource Guide

The U.S. Department of Education (ED), Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS), and the Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) Technical Assistance (TA) Center is pleased to provide an updated version of its Advanced Topics training module on Responding to Bereavement and Loss. This 60-minute training module addresses the importance of including plans for responding to bereavement and loss in high-quality school emergency operations plans (EOPs) and outlines the common manifestations of bereavement and loss.

In addition, this training provides an overview of the developmental factors in children and adolescents that may impact bereavement. It addresses the need to outline the protocols and procedures that will be followed prior to, as well as after, an emergency event takes place. In taking steps such as creating crisis response teams, training appropriate staff, establishing systems for mass communication, verifying facts following an incident, and supporting all students and staff, schools can begin to respond appropriately to a death or loss at their school site.

The target audience for this training includes anyone who may have a role in the planning process (including state and school district emergency planning officials, school staff, and community partners), as well as public and mental health practitioners (including school psychologists and counselors).

Please use the materials provided in this package and the steps below to help train personnel at your school site on this important topic.

- Read through the training presentation and speaker notes.
- Review the additional resources.
- Identify the personnel at your site who would benefit from learning more about this topic.
- Set aside 60 minutes to train these personnel.
- Provide the training and additional resources, including the handout on Key Considerations Related to Bereavement and Loss as well as the accompanying Tabletop Exercise, and allow time at the conclusion of the training to discuss how to integrate lessons learned into your school EOP and the planning process.

The contents of this package were developed under a contract from the United States Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal government.