



Supporting the Grieving Student



NATIONAL CENTER FOR
School Crisis & Bereavement

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COALITION *to* SUPPORT
GRIEVING STUDENTS

Survey of >1200 AFT members

- AFT, New York Life Foundation, Tiller Inc, Hart Research Associates
- 92% reported grief is serious problem that deserves more attention in schools
- Single most important barrier preventing teachers from providing support -- insufficient training and/or professional development
- 93% of classroom teachers never received bereavement training; 3% of schools/districts offer training



Loss is common in the lives of children

- Vast majority of children experience the death of a family member and/or friend by the time they complete high school
- 5% of children experience death of parent by 16
- It is highly likely you see a grieving child every day in school, even if you don't see any children grieving



What to expect in schools in absence of intervention after crisis/loss

- ↓ Cognitive functioning and academic achievement (anxiety, ↓ concentration, sleep problems, depression)
- ↑ Absenteeism (school avoidance)
- ↑ Suspensions/expulsions (irritability, social regression, substance abuse)
- Taking time in schools to help children adjust to crisis and loss is essential to promote academic achievement

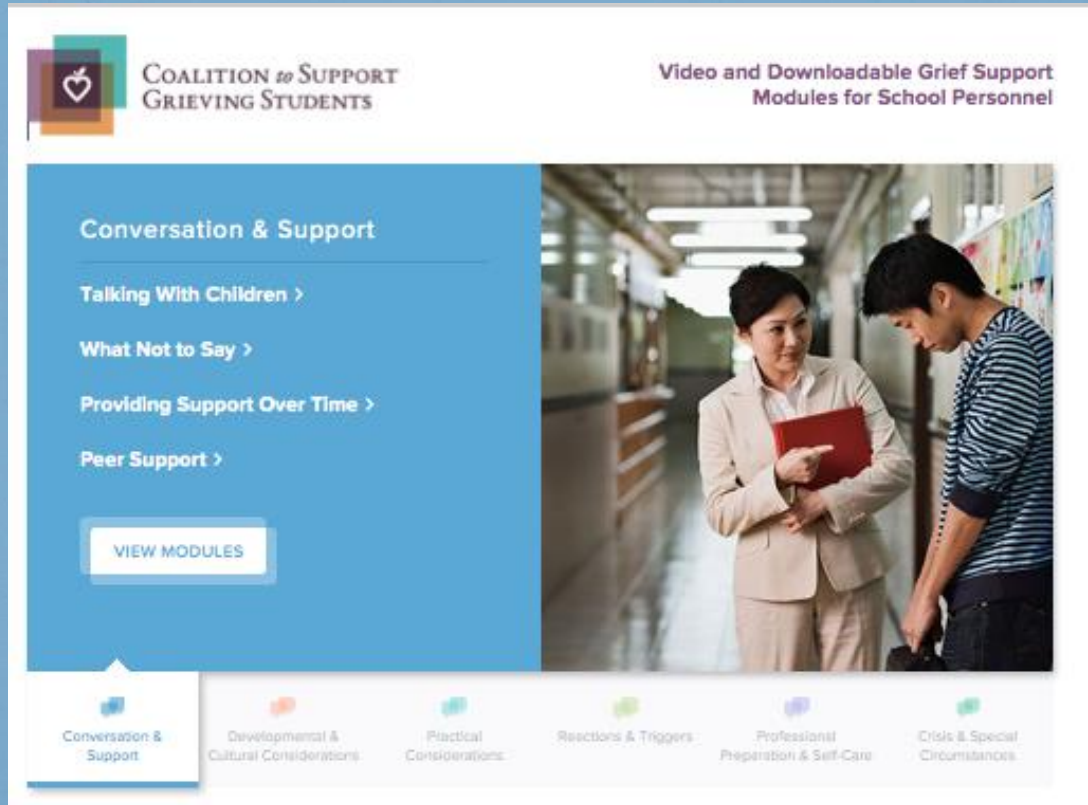


Coalition to Support Grieving Students

- American Federation of School Administrators (AFSA)
- American Federation of Teachers (AFT)
- American School Counselors Association (ASCA)
- National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)
- National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)
- National Association of School Nurses (NASN)
- National Association of School Psychologists (NASP)
- National Education Association (NEA)
- School Social Workers Association of America (SSWAA)
- **School Superintendents Association (AASA)**



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COALITION to SUPPORT GRIEVING STUDENTS

Video and Downloadable Grief Support Modules for School Personnel

Conversation & Support

- Talking With Children >
- What Not to Say >
- Providing Support Over Time >
- Peer Support >

[VIEW MODULES](#)

Conversation & Support | Developmental & Cultural Considerations | Practical Considerations | Reactions & Triggers | Professional Preparation & Self-Care | Crisis & Special Circumstances

The screenshot shows a website interface with a blue sidebar on the left containing navigation links. The main content area features a large photograph of a woman in a light-colored blazer holding a red folder, talking to a young man in a striped shirt in a school hallway. Below the photo is a horizontal menu with six categories, each with a small icon.



Modules Placed into Six Sections

- Each section contains 2-4 video modules; each video is accompanied by handout that summarizes major points
- Conversation and Support
- Developmental and Cultural Considerations
- Practical Considerations
- Reactions and Triggers
- Professional Preparation and Self-Care
- Crisis and Other Special Circumstances



Additional Resources

- Guidance Documents
 - Practical guidelines developed by the NCSCB on how to respond to the death of a student or staff
- Parent booklet: *After a Loved One dies – How Children Grieve and How to Support Them*
- Articles
- Online Resources
 - Achildingrief.com





COALITION *to* SUPPORT GRIEVING STUDENTS

LEAD FOUNDING MEMBERS



FOUNDING MEMBERS

