

MEMORIALS AND REMEMBRANCES

PURPOSE

The RSU No. 5 Board recognizes that when a school community experiences the death of a student or staff member, it is important to the school community and to those who are personally affected to acknowledge the event.

The social and emotional well-being of the staff and student body is important. With an understanding that our responsibility is to serve all students, our intention is to create an environment where losses are treated equitably.

Schools are designed primarily to support learning. The purpose of this policy is to set forth guidelines for responding to the death of a student or staff member.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines allow for the expression of grief in the school community which is caring and respectful, yet minimizes disruption to learning. They show how the school may provide an opportunity to mourn the loss of students or staff equitably and appropriately.

SCHOOL RESPONSE

Following the death(s) of a student or staff member, the principal is responsible for determining the school response in consultation with the Superintendent, and, as appropriate, the family of those affected.

The principal shall consider questions of student equity and discretion in consideration of the social and emotional well-being of the student body when determining approved activities. Care should be taken not to detract from regularly scheduled classroom or school programs. Rescheduling or canceling events, will only occur with prior Superintendent approval.

The following guidelines shall be used by the principal to determine appropriate response(s):

Allowable

- Additional district counseling services may be made available to provide support.
- Schools may observe a moment of silence.
- Remembrances of flowers, personal messages and mementoes may be allowed near lockers, parking spaces, and other areas on district property. The display of all remembrances shall be temporary in nature, removed after an appropriate period of time, and may be offered to the family.
- School yearbooks, graduation ceremonies, and other district activities may memorialize an individual.

- Memorial scholarships may be established in collaboration with the school unit. Refer to *scholarship procedures* on the RSU No. 5 website.
- Contributions (such as money, plants, and service) may be made to existing memorial gardens for all district RSU loss, without particularly naming the lost individual.

Not Allowable

- Classes will not be dismissed early or canceled on the day of a memorial or funeral service.
- Flags may be lowered only in accordance with state and federal law.
- The school unit will not install permanent memorials in memory of an individual or event.
- District property (e.g., buildings, rooms, fields, gymnasiums, etc.) must comply with Board policy *FF – Naming Facilities*.
- The Board discourages the use of district property for memorial services. Any such request will only be considered in accordance with Board policy *KF – Community Use of School Facilities* and applicable administrative procedures.

GRANDFATHERING

Memorials that are currently in existence, shall remain, although relocated if necessary.

Cross Reference: EBCA – Emergency Management Plan
 FF – Naming Facilities
 KF – Community Use of School Facilities

Adopted: October 12, 2022