

940 - STUDENT MEMORIALS

The District recognizes the far-reaching impact a student's death may have on other students, staff, families, and the community. The School Board believes that remembrance of a student whose life ended during his/her school years should be consistent from case to case, considerate of the grief process of family and friends, and in accordance with Board policy.

A deceased student's name and picture will be included in the first school yearbook published after the student's death. The student's name will also be included in the graduation program for his/her graduating class.

A memorial plaque may be placed in a particular room or area within a district school in an individual's honor under the following conditions:

- a. Memorials in recognition of a person's contribution to public education in the district may only be made after the death of the person who is being considered for recognition.
- b. Students who have died during their time of attendance at a district school may be recognized through a memorial plaque. Memorial plaques or similar kinds of memorials are encouraged above all other physical memorials. They shall be consistent in size, shape and wording with the existing interior wall hung plaque memorials, the location of which are also to be consistent with the existing interior memorials (i.e. inside the school building).
- c. An individual can be considered for a memorial upon the first anniversary of his/her death. In the case of a memorialization of a student or district employee, a ceremony may take place sooner than one year under appropriate circumstances.
- d. No district monies shall be expended for memorial plaques, except as required for installation purposes.
- e. Permission from family members shall be obtained prior to making final arrangements for a memorial.

The superintendent of schools shall be responsible for approving the memorial, its location, and any associated dedication program and ceremony.

A memorial plaque honoring a deceased or former student may be placed in a school for an undetermined amount of time and will be periodically reviewed by District Administration. It is the intent of this policy to communicate to donating parties that a memorial plaque is not expected to be in a school forever. Memorial plaques will be approved and administered by the appropriate Principal. Memorial plaques associated

with donated material or equipment will remain as long as the material or equipment remains.

Existing memorials established prior to the implementation of this policy will remain intact. Existing memorials are generally the sole responsibility of the entity providing the memorial; district staff and /or finances may only be used to maintain current memorials as part of regular maintenance processes and/or to ensure safe conditions. The district reserves the right to remove a memorial if it is not or cannot be maintained or is contrary to the overall educational needs of students.

District staff will not provide memorial monitoring if the death of a student or staff member occurred in a public location accessible by community members, such as a crash site.

The school district will not recognize or memorialize the death of an individual by suicide.

Cross References: 941.1 Memorials and Dedications

Approved: February 15, 2023