



A bereavement resource
for school communities

New York Life's Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative

1 in 14 children will experience the
death of a parent or sibling by age 18*

School communities have a pivotal role to play in the grief journey of children:

- Nearly 70 percent of teachers have at least one grieving student in their classroom at any time
- Grief can have a serious impact on learning, resulting in decreased academic performance, social withdrawal, and behavioral problems
- Only 7 percent of teachers have had any amount of bereavement training
- 92 percent of educators say childhood grief is a serious problem that deserves more attention from schools

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New York Life Insurance Company

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New York Life's connection

As the largest corporate champion of childhood bereavement support over the past decade, the New York Life Foundation has a longstanding commitment to improving the support available to grieving children and their families across the country. A key part of this effort is addressing the issue of how grief is handled at school—which has resulted in new national initiatives to equip school communities to support grieving students. New York Life's dedicated online bereavement resource, which includes a state-by-state guide of local grief support centers and organizations, can be found at newyorklife.com/foundation/bereavement.

The Coalition to Support Grieving Students: a dedicated resource for school communities

Convened by the New York Life Foundation in partnership with the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, the Coalition to Support Grieving Students is a collaboration among leading K-12 professional organizations to develop and deliver best-in-class grief-support resources to educators. The Coalition's flagship project is grievingstudents.org, a first-of-its-kind resource designed to equip educators with the information, insights, and practical advice they need to better understand and help the millions of grieving children in America's classrooms. This user-friendly site features videos and downloadable grief-support modules for school

personnel, with materials tailored for different audiences including classroom educators, principals and administrators, student support personnel, and family and community members.

The Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative: promoting awareness and resources for educators

The Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative (GSSI) is part of New York Life's nationwide effort to better equip educators and other school personnel to care for grieving students. Through the program, trained New York Life ambassadors connect with schools in their local communities to raise educators' awareness of grief's prevalence and impact among school-age children—and to direct them to critical resources designed especially for education practitioners by the Coalition to Support Grieving Students. New York Life recognizes schools that commit to better support their grieving students through the "Grief-Sensitive School" designation, which is accompanied by a grant to help them build a more robust culture of grief support and resiliency at their school.

How does it work?

New York Life GSSI ambassadors connect with accredited K-12 public or private institutions to offer a presentation on the issue of grief at school and share resources available to help educators foster a supportive environment for their students (including grievingstudents.org).

Participating schools are encouraged to make a formal commitment to strive to become more grief-sensitive. Those that do receive New York Life's "Grief-Sensitive School" designation and a \$500 grant to help them enhance grief support and resources in their school community.

Become a Grief-Sensitive School

Contact:
nylffoundation@newyorklife.com

Grief resources:
www.grievingstudents.org
www.achildgrief.com

To host a presentation, please contact your local New York Life GSSI Ambassador:

The Coalition is made up of representatives from American educational organizations with large, active membership bases across a spectrum of roles, geographies, and school types.

Lead Founding Members



Founding Members



* Results from the Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model (CBEM) developed by Judi's House/JAG Institute www.judishouse.org/CBEM.