

# Management During Crisis

## Preparation

- Have a written plan
- Have a crisis team with a clear chain of command and communication protocol
- Have a phone tree, text message group, etc. ready.
- Practice and do table-top drills
- Use crisis prevention strategies
  - Risk assessment protocols
  - Bully response / prevention
  - LGBT support
  - etc..
- Use education to prevent crisis
  - Suicide prevention
  - Drivers ed.
  - DARE, SADD, etc.
  - PBIS strategies
- Maintain an ongoing list of fragile staff (and students)

## Response

- Gather information throughout the event
- Take on partners - RCT on call
- Anticipate issues including press, social media, etc.
- Communicate the big and little things
- Look for community connections to loss
- Designate a point person for family contact
- Don't forget the systems - student management system
- Take care of your team's basic needs
- Remove family from auto-communication system
- Notify transportation and registration
- Script response to parent and student inquiries
- Clearly document messages and phone numbers for return calls - say number back
- Check "Family tree" and close relationships (coaches, advisors, etc.)
- Check district calendar for events.

## Recovery

- Attend to long term mental health needs of community
- Manage donations and scholarships.
- Guidelines for memorials.
- Long term reminders and anniversaries
- Manage memorials and spaces for them.
- Set schedule of coverage for memorials, wakes, services,
- Notify next grade level or school.
- Put event on calendar as a recurring reminder.
- Clean student locker - save mementos.
- Discuss events with parents - yearbook, graduation ceremony, etc.
- Activate RCT as necessary

## Post-Crisis

- Debrief and learn from response to crisis.
- Make revisions to crisis plan
- Save and organize resources for next time
- Use event to educate community

# LEADERSHIP DURING CRISIS

## Preparation

Leaders Ask:

- How can I build bridges with community leaders before I need them?
- How can we ensure that all members of a school community have strong personal bonds to others before they need them?
- How can I share what I know and have learned with other leaders? How can I learn from them?
- How does our communities value system align with our planned response?
- How can our core value system reduce future crises?

## Response

Leaders Ask:

- How can I communicate with all constituents to build trust and build teamwork?
- How can I take care of the mental health of the "helpers?"
- How can we model and teach the beginning stages of the grieving process?
- How can we respond in a way that inspires trust?
- Am I balancing my display of strength and vulnerability as a leader?

## Recovery

Leaders Ask:

- How can we bring the community together to memorialize and remember?
- How can we reinforce and build partnerships forged through this crisis?
- How can we model and teach the latter stages of the grieving process?
- Can we use this event as a point of strength and unity?

## Post-Crisis

Leaders Ask:

- How can we debrief so all are willing and able to give feedback?
- How can I the support the mental health of our crisis team?
- How can we create a learning community so all can learn from going through crisis?
- How can we inspire others to be "helpers" in our school community?
- Are we nurturing our next generation of school mental health professionals?

