



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## RESPONSE TO TRAGIC EVENTS

Policy Number: E-20

Authority: 06-155/14-05/17-219/20-112

### POLICY STATEMENT

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The Northeastern Catholic District School (NCDSB) is committed to assisting our school communities touched by a traumatic event or crisis that occurs in a family, in the local area or in the broader global environment. As a Catholic community of believers, we are called to show empathy and compassion to our students and staff members who may be affected emotionally by tragedy or crisis. The NCDSB believes that our response to tragedy must reflect our Catholic beliefs, values, and traditions, while respecting the increasing diversity of our community.

### REFERENCES

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NCDSB Administrative Procedure APE035  
*NCDSB Tragic Events Protocol*

### DEFINITIONS

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#### **Crisis**

An unexpected event that cannot be prevented and which causes deep emotional reactions within the school or community.

#### **Tragic Event**

A serious illness, accident, death, or traumatic event that affects more than one student or staff member, and that goes beyond the school resources in terms of coping and responding.

### POLICY REGULATIONS

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- 1.0 The Northeastern Catholic District School Board's *Tragic Events Protocol* and attendant administrative procedures will help to ensure that there is consistency in our response and actions to tragedy and/or crisis.
- 2.0 The *Tragic Events Protocol* and attendant administrative procedures shall include suggestions on ways to deal with grief, including faith-based resources, as well as appropriate communication strategies to consider.
- 3.0 In the instance of a tragic event, the Principal or Administrator shall consult with the Superintendent of Education and refer to the *Tragic Events Protocol*.
- 4.0 The Superintendent of Education will communicate the tragic event to the Director of Education as soon as possible, who will then share the information with the NCDSB community accordingly.

- 5.0 The Principal or Administrator will implement the protocol accordingly, and will seek the assistance of system leaders and/or support workers, parish partners, or agencies as required.
- 6.0 Resources will be deployed to the school as required to support the grieving process of the community, as determined by the Principal and/or Superintendent of Education.
- 7.0 At least once annually, the Principal shall review the *Tragic Events Protocol* and attendant administrative procedures with staff members.
- 8.0 A Superintendent of Education shall provide the resources to ensure the proper implementation of the Board's Tragic Events Protocol and Procedures.