



HURON-PERTH CATHOLIC

District School Board

Catholic School Crisis Response

Adopted:	September 22, 2003	Policy #:	P 2.2.2.
Revised:	February 28, 2022	Policy Category:	2.2. School Program

BELIEF STATEMENT:

The Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board believes that life is a precious gift. Coping with the loss of a loved one is a difficult and painful experience for everyone in a school community. The Board also recognizes that the Catholic community, especially in a Christian context like a Catholic school, can provide support to members of the community who are bereaved, and have been impacted by death or a traumatic event. The community that shares the grieving process helps its members to deal with the bereavement or trauma.

Therefore the Board empowers the Director to establish a structure that will assist school communities to:

- Provide compassion and understanding wherever and whenever necessary.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the crisis intervention process.
- Create rituals to help others find meaning and work through the grieving/post-trauma process.
- Maintain support in a non-judgmental manner since there is no “proper” or “correct” way to grieve.
- In all cases when a student or staff member dies while engaged in a school related activity, or there is a serious incident, a person shall be assigned as soon as possible to assist the family and act as a liaison with the school/board.

POLICY STATEMENT:

It is the policy of the Huron-Perth Catholic District School Board to recognize that the occurrence of a crisis/trauma in a school community can have a powerful emotional impact on the students, staff, and their families.

The Board shall develop procedures, protocols and operational guidance to respond to occurrences of crisis/trauma and will ensure that these are marked by Christian dignity and compassion.

PROCEDURE:

1. A District Crisis Response Team shall be established by the Board to assist and support the in-school Crisis Support Teams upon request by the Administration.
2. Each school should have an in-school Crisis Support Team in place in September of each year to meet the needs of the school community in a time of crisis.
3. The Catholic Crisis Response Guidelines (Appendix A) outline the procedures to be followed in the event of death or traumatic event.

4. The Suicide Response Protocol (Appendix B) will guide schools in suicide prevention, responding to suicide, and postvention.
5. The Crisis Response Team will keep schools informed of its services on a regular basis.
6. The Crisis Response Team will review its support guidelines, protocols, and corresponding training needs on a regular basis and will recommend changes to the Superintendent responsible for Crisis Response.

DEFINITIONS:

A crisis - defined as an unexpected event that cannot be prevented and which causes deep emotional reactions within the school.

In mental health terms, a crisis refers not necessarily to a traumatic situation or event, but to a person's reaction to an event. One person might be deeply affected by an event, while another individual suffers little or no ill effects.

REFERENCES:

- N/A

RESOURCES, APPENDICES AND FORMS:

- N/A