

Article V.C.17 Student Memorials and Tributes

A. Statement of Purpose

In the unfortunate event of a student’s passing, there is often a call for the creation of memorials or other types of activities to remember or commemorate the loss. The Board of Education of Granite School District (District) provides the following policy to govern requests for memorials or tributes.

B. Statement of Policy

Because of the danger of increased suicidal ideation, gestures, and attempts following a death, mental health experts have cautioned that schools should not glorify or sensationalize a death in any way. Schools shall seek to “do no harm” and work to prevent further tragedy such as the death of another student. For this reason, student deaths shall not be memorialized at school. Schools shall leave that responsibility to families, friends, and communities to grieve and eulogize the deceased. As such, schools shall not create memorials or provide tributes on school campuses or other properties, in school yearbooks, or otherwise as part of school sponsored events or publications.

1. Memorial Events

- a. Families of the deceased student may consult with the District Crisis Intervention Team, the appropriate assistant superintendent, and/or a director of school leadership and improvement when considering appropriate ways to memorialize a student’s death.
- b. Schools shall not sponsor or direct memorial events, although school personnel are welcome to attend and take part in memorial events.
- c. School personnel may consult with community organizers of memorial events to ensure gathering sites are safe.
- d. Fundraising efforts shall not be led by school employees or students acting as representatives of a school or Granite School District, although school personnel may contribute to such efforts.

2. Physical Memorials

- a. Permanent physical memorials will not be placed on school or District property, including but not limited to planting trees, plaques, and yearbook dedications. Temporary tokens and gestures such as cards, remembrances, and donations are preferred. When considering a request for any temporary token or gesture, schools should consult with the District Crisis Intervention Team.
- b. Under state law, only the Governor can direct how the flag should be flown, and as such, flags should be flown as directed by executive order.

3. Procedure and Crisis Response

When a crisis occurs, District and school personnel shall refer to current protocols in the Granite School District Crisis Response Materials and the Granite School

District Safety Manual. These documents provide evidence-based best practices to support schools during recovery from any type of crisis.

REFERENCES

Granite School District Safety Manual
Granite School District Crisis Response Protocols