



502.1AP Exhibit 1 Death of a Student

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APPROVED: 2023.06.20 (2015.11.18)
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CROSS-REFERENCE:

- Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual
 - [502.1AP Media & Public Relations](#)
 - [502.1AP Exhibit 2 Death of a Staff Member](#)
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PREAMBLE:

Although not an occurrence that is anticipated, it is important to have procedures in place to allow schools and school communities to follow a prescribed course of action should a student death occur. While sensitivity needs to be exercised in these difficult situations, decisions made at the time of an actual occurrence tend to be made on an emotional rather than rational basis. The following administrative procedures have been developed to help schools and school leaders take action in the event of a death. The actions taken at the school level are clearly outlined in the Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual that should be available in every school. The purpose of this document is to provide protocols for issues outside of Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual.

In the event of the death of a student who is currently enrolled in a BTPS school:

1. The school principal will follow procedures as outlined in the Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual.
2. The principal will contact the Superintendent/Director of Inclusive Learning as soon as possible with the factual information.
3. The Superintendent will communicate with stakeholder groups beyond the school community (BTPS Schools, Board of Trustees, Central Services, & Alberta Education).
4. Should the funeral take place during the school day, a decision between the Superintendent, the Chair of the Board of Trustees and the principal will occur to determine if school closure is appropriate. The decision will be made in the best interests of the education of students. The Superintendent of Schools is the only person who can make the final decision to close a school.

5. If appropriate, and in consultation with the family and the Superintendent, the principal of the school(s) of which the student attended, will lower the BTPS Flag to half-mast as soon as possible and it will remain at half-mast until the morning following the funeral service (or at the discretion of the principal).
6. If appropriate, and in consultation with the principal, the Superintendent will lower the BTPS flag at Central Services to half mast, as soon as possible and it will remain at half-mast until the morning following the funeral service (or at the discretion of the Superintendent).
7. The Superintendent or a designate will attend the funeral services on behalf of BTPS Central Services where possible.

In the event of a death of a student who was enrolled in a BTPS school in the previous three calendar years:

1. The school principal will follow procedures as outlined in the Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual.
2. The school principal will contact the Superintendent/Director of Inclusive Learning as soon as possible with the factual information.
3. The Superintendent of Schools will communicate with stakeholder groups beyond the school community (BTPS Schools, Board of Trustees, Central Services).
4. The school will not be closed under this circumstance.
5. If appropriate, and in consultation with the family and the Superintendent, the principal of the school(s) of which the student attended, will lower the BTPS Flag to half-mast as soon as possible and it will remain at half-mast until the morning following the funeral service (or at the discretion of the principal).
6. If appropriate, and in consultation with the principal, the Superintendent will lower the BTPS flag at Central Services to half mast, as soon as possible and it will remain at half-mast until the morning following the funeral service (or at the discretion of the Superintendent).

In the event of a death of an immediate family member of a student who is currently enrolled in a BTPS school:

1. The school principal will follow procedures as outlined in the Buffalo Trail Public Schools Crisis Response Manual.
2. The principal will contact the Superintendent/Director of Inclusive Learning as soon as possible with the factual information.
3. The Superintendent will communicate with stakeholder groups beyond the school community (BTPS Schools, Board of Trustees, Central Services).