

Announcements

Consider the format for announcements:

- Opening statement of regret (“We have sad news...”)
- Who died, how, when, brief details
- Normalizing reactions (“When things like this happen, people often feel...”)
- Brief description of the Safe Room and what support will be available
- Leading discussion:
 - How did you find out about this
 - Allowing students to put their words to it
 - Sharing their own stories

Because we ask teachers to lead discussion after the announcement, there are often questions that are very difficult for teachers to answer off the cuff. The range of answers to some questions could cause difficulties when students in different classrooms have received different answers. There are some things that teachers could say without thinking that could create legal or ethical issues.

Consider the following kinds of deaths. What might be the most difficult questions to answer that students might ask? What might come up in discussion that teachers would need ideas for handling ahead of time?

Suicide of a student in the highest grade of an elementary school:

Student walking to school is hit and killed by another student who is driving:

Student is abducted from her home and found dead two weeks later:

Do you have ideas other than the one suggested in the video for how/when the desk would be removed? What are the important considerations?

Two weeks after the homicide of a student, a classmate is arrested for the crime: