



# Northeastern Catholic District School Board

## RESPONSE TO TRAGIC EVENTS

Policy Number: E-20

Authority: 06-155/14-05/17-219/20-112/  
23-114

### 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 Tragic Events Protocol  
NCDSB Administrative Procedure  
APE020 Response to Tragic Events

### 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 shall be used to ensure a consistent, faith-based response to tragic events and/or crisis situations.
- 2.0 In the instance of a crisis or tragic event in a school, the Principal or designate shall consult with the Superintendent of Education and refer to the *Tragic Events Protocol*.
- 3.0 The Superintendent of Education will communicate the event to the Director of Education as soon as possible, who will then share the information with the NCDSB community accordingly.

- 4.0 The Principal, their designate, or an appropriate senior official will implement the protocol accordingly, and will seek the assistance of system leaders and/or support workers, parish partners, or agencies as required.
- 5.0 At least once annually, staff shall review the Tragic Events Protocol and attendant administrative procedures.