GUIDELINES FOR STAFF SESSION
SUPPORTING DOCUMENT TO
THE IDAHO SCHOOL RESPONSE GUIDELINES FOR SUICIDE AND SUDDEN DEATH

Staff should be provided with:
• Current information regarding the death
• An opportunity to ask questions and express feelings
• If applicable, news articles about the death
• Information about suicide contagion
• Suicide risk factors and warning signs
• An updated list of referral resources
• Direction regarding how to interact with the media, i.e., refer all media to the principal or designee
• Plans for the provision of crisis intervention services
• A support mechanism to deal with their own self-care, e.g., EAP, a separate confidential support room
• Staff debriefing session at the end of the day

Specific activities/responsibilities for teachers include:
• Replacing rumors with facts
• Encouraging the expression of feelings
• Emphasizing that grief and stress responses are normal
• Discouraging attempts to romanticize the death or to criticize the student who died
• Identifying students at risk for imitative response
• Knowing how to make the appropriate referrals
• Standing outside your classroom door during passing periods

Address staff reactions including giving them permission to feel uncomfortable.