

Kenton County School District | *It's about ALL kids.*

**THE KENTON COUNTY BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**

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Dr. Henry Webb, Superintendent of Schools

**KCSD ISSUE PAPER**

**DATE:**

1/31/19

**AGENDA ITEM (ACTION ITEM):**

**Consider/Approve Approval of agreement with Fernside and Scott High School to provide in-school grief support group.**

**APPLICABLE BOARD POLICY:**

**Consent Agenda**

**HISTORY/BACKGROUND:**

Fernside's In-School Grief Support Group program provides time-limited support for students who have experienced a death. The group meets once a week for six weeks. Each week focuses on a different theme. Fernside staff introduce a topic or theme at the beginning of each group which is followed by an expressive art activity to help process feelings and facilitate discussion.

**FISCAL/BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

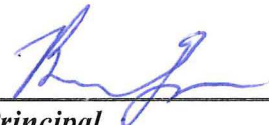
**This program is provided free of charge to the school..**

**RECOMMENDATION:**


**It is recommended that this action be approved.**

**CONTACT PERSON:**

**Scott High School: Brandi Kekua-Ellison, Fernside: Christine Kettman**

  
Principal

  
District Administrator

  
Superintendent

*Use this form to submit your request to the Superintendent for items to be added to the Board Meeting Agenda.*

*Principal—complete, print, sign and send to your Director. Director—if approved, sign and put in the Superintendent's mailbox.*

**Kenton County Board of Education**

Board Members: Carl Wicklund, Chairperson Karen L. Collins, Vice Chairperson Carla Egan Shannon Herold Jessica Jehn  
"The Kenton County Board of Education provides *Equal Education & Employment Opportunities.*"

## **FERNSIDE SCHOOL GROUP CHECKLIST & AGREEMENT**

Name of School Scott High School

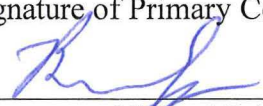
Primary Contact at the School Brandi Kekua-Ellison, Youth Services

Secondary Contact at the School Deb Ison, school counselor

Please keep the following in mind:

- ◆ We require a minimum of four students in order to hold an on-site grief group at your school.
- ◆ Each group will meet once a week for six weeks.
- ◆ We require a space that is appropriate for group work (tables & chairs) and has limited interruptions.
- ◆ We will work with you to determine the best day and time to hold the group. We prefer the same day and time each week for consistency.
- ◆ All required Fernside paperwork must be completed by the guardian. **Fernside must have a signed consent form for each student before they are able to participate.** Fernside will screen identified group members and discuss any concerns.
- ◆ Students may only participate in one Fernside session per school year. If a student needs long-term support, the family can be referred to our evening program.
- ◆ The school is responsible for gathering group members before the start of each group meeting.
- ◆ Observers are not permitted. This includes volunteers and parents.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Primary Contact/Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of School Principal/Date

Fernside's In-School Grief Support Group program provides time-limited support for students who have experienced a death. The group meets once a week for six weeks. Each week focuses on a different theme. Fernside staff introduce a topic or theme at the beginning of each group which is followed by an expressive art activity to help process feelings and facilitate discussion. Here's a sample curriculum used in our grief groups:

Week 1: Group Building/Telling Your Story

Objective: To encourage group members to bond as a group. To begin to share information about each other's grief experience.

Week 2: Feelings

Objective: To encourage the group to explore and discuss a variety of feelings surrounding the loss. To share emotions and learn healthy ways to express feelings of sadness, anger and loneliness.

Week 3: Dreams/Nightmares/Worries

Objective: To encourage sharing of dreams and worries. To comfort fears. To explore positive solutions.

Week 4: Changes

Objective: To identify changes within self and others since the loss. What has changed at home? At school? With family? With friends?

Week 5: Family

Objective: To emphasize the permanence of family despite loss. To identify all support systems: family, friends, school, church, neighbors, etc. Begin preparing group for closure.

Week 6: Memories/Closure

Objective: To cherish memories together. To honor memories and traditions. Discuss holidays and birthdays. What's the same? What's different? To discuss what it means to have group come to a close. Discuss highlights and low points about the group. Identify feelings about the future.