

1180 Memorials to Deceased Students and Staff

Recognizing the deep impact of losing a member of the school community, schools will support staff, students, and families in their grief and provide connections to appropriate community resources. School sites, being primarily dedicated to learning, should not serve as the main venue for memorializing students and staff. School counselors may be consulted to assist families and students with bereavement support.

Effective October 3, 2024, permanent memorials for deceased students or staff shall be limited to collections of books, items of historical or educational significance, plaque, or a district brick. Memorials may be marked with a permanent stone, or plaque, limited to 12 inches in size, indicating the name and relevant information of the person to be memorialized, with the specific type and messages approved by the Superintendent or designee. The District reserves the right to establish design parameters so that all permanent memorials blend with the architecture or setting of the facility, and/or blend with existing memorials. Items purchased shall not be funded through district resources. The family shall be consulted at the time of any request.

While the District encourages existing memorials to remain in their original locations to honor the memory of the student or staff member and respect the original decision-making, relocation will only be considered if necessary to preserve the integrity of the memorial and continuity of remembrance.

Temporary memorials, such as floral arrangements and photo displays, shall remain in place at the discretion of the Superintendent for a period not exceeding two weeks after the death occurred, or as necessary due to environmental conditions. Such memorials shall then be given to the family by designated district officials, when practicable. Temporary memorials shall not alter district-owned property.

Memorial activities for deceased students or staff expressed at school shall be coordinated by school administration and approved through the Superintendent or designee. School administration, in consultation with the Superintendent or designee, shall determine which activities best meet the overall needs of students, staff, parents, and the community. Examples of such activities include yearbook recognition, promotion recognition, or a moment of silence. The Superintendent has discretion to consider memorial events, such as a vigil, that use district facilities when the death impacts the majority of students, staff, and the community.

Board Approved:

Effective Date: October 3, 2024