

Tips for Staff in Response to Crisis Situations

From School District 54, Schaumburg, Ill.

Emotional reactions vary in nature and severity from student to student, based on previous experience, temperament, personality and the immediacy of the crisis to their own lives. Some common reactions include

- Fear
- Loss of Control
- Anger
- Loss of Stability
- Uncertainty

What can I do as a Teacher?

- Be as honest as possible with students about what has happened.
- Dispel rumors.
- Model an appropriate response.
- Allow students to express their feelings while helping them to put their fears in perspective
- Reassure students that they are safe at school – make sure that students know that there are procedures in place that are designed to keep them personally safe, and that as a school building we practice these procedures routinely.
- Move on with normal school activities as soon as possible.
- In some cases, you may want to involve the students in an activity that demonstrates support for the victims of the crisis (cards, care packages, projects) – this can help students to regain a sense of control.

If you notice that a particular student/group of students is continuing to struggle, notify your building administration and social worker/psychologist to ensure that additional support is provided.