



Azrieli

**Azrieli Graduate School of
Jewish Education and Administration**

Resources for Schools and Communities in Response to Trauma, Tragedy and Loss

School should be a place of growth, learning, and safety for all children. Unfortunately, trauma, tragedy and loss find their way into the lives of children, and whether events occur on school grounds, or within the community, schools and the students that attend them are impacted. Jewish Day Schools are a powerful resource for communities struggling during and in the aftermath of trauma, tragedy or loss. This brief compilation of resources is meant to support the work of the educators, parents, and professionals. Jewish Day Schools will certainly engage Torah wisdom and the traditions and comfort that *tefillah* and *emunah* offer in times of great sorrow. These resources and those of the Azrieli Graduate School are provided in the hopes that we will join together in *simcha* at times of celebration, but with the knowledge that we are *am echad b'lev echad* in times of tragedy as well.

<http://www.nea.org/home/72279.htm> - National Education Association brief guide with additional resource links

<http://www.nea.org/assets/docs/NEA%20School%20Crisis%20Guide%202018.pdf>
– A comprehensive guide from the National Education Association for how to prevent, prepare, respond, and recover when school trauma occurs. Although geared to school-based events, the specific suggestions for the day after trauma, and the weeks following, may be very helpful to schools and communities.

<https://www.nctsn.org/what-is-child-trauma/trauma-types/terrorism-and-violence> - excellent website of National Child Traumatic Stress Network, an organization for researchers and practitioners working with children experiencing traumatic stress. Resources on school shootings may be very helpful and

relevant for Jewish communities experiencing violence in synagogues and community centers.

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/talkingwithkids/news/help-kids-feel-safe.html> - This PBSParents website has specific guidelines for how parents and educators can talk with children after traumatic events.

<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/family-life/Media/Pages/Talking-To-Children-About-Tragedies-and-Other-News-Events.aspx> - The American Academy of Pediatrics offers developmentally geared suggestions for how parents and educators can speak with children at all ages. Video clips are included.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/find-help/disaster-distress-helpline/disaster-types/mass-violence> - The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has a website with straight-forward explanation of adults' normative response to traumatic events.

The Azrieli Graduate School faculty and alumni network include experienced trauma responders and seasoned educators. Please feel free to contact us if your school or community is in need of assistance. We can be reached at azrieli@yu.edu or 212-960-0186.