

560 MEMORIALS

I. PURPOSE

Northfield Public Schools recognizes that the loss of a student member of the school community has a great impact on students, staff, and families. Further, the District recognizes that decisions made about memorials immediately after traumatic events may not take into full consideration the potential impacts to students, staff, and community members. The purpose of this policy is to assist staff, students and families impacted by a death by providing guidelines for decision-making regarding memorials and memorial-related activities.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

1. While the school district wants to support students and staff who are grieving a loss, memorials can be an ongoing reminder of a traumatic event and can be impossible for students to avoid when located on school property or included in school-wide events.
2. The Superintendent or his/her designee shall develop procedures governing public memorials.

III. DEFINITIONS

1. "Memorials" mean objects or activities meant to remember an event or deceased person(s).

Policy 560 - Memorials
Adopted: May 23, 2016

School Board
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT 659
Northfield, Minnesota

PROCEDURES FOR POLICY 560

MEMORIALS

- Other than the Graduation procedures listed below, public memorial activities at school sponsored events will not be scheduled.
- Principals, in consultation with the school crisis team and considering the developmental level of the students impacted, will determine the appropriate response to support students at school following the loss of a student at the building.

GRADUATION

In the event of a student from the graduating class has passed away during their *senior year*, the following guidelines will be used for the graduation ceremony:

- If the student death occurs during the *senior year*, the family of the deceased student will receive an honorary diploma for their son/daughter.
- The names of all students who have completed the requirements for graduation will be listed in the program.
- Chairs will be set for students participating in the graduation ceremony.
- Only the names of students participating in the graduation ceremony will be read during the distribution of diplomas.
- Reference to the deceased student will be made during the principal's remarks, at the principal's discretion.
- A plant, purchased by the senior class, will be displayed on the commencement stage for each deceased student. The plant, diploma (if applicable), and program will be presented to the family after the ceremony.