



PETER'S PLACE
A Center for Grieving Children & Families

School-Based Program Overview

(2024-2025 School Year)

Through Peter's Place school-based program, students who have experienced the death of a significant person can discover their innate capacity to help and support each other (and themselves) as they navigate through grief. Peter's Place offers this program as a foundation of understanding for grief, enabling students to move forward with other options of support at the completion of a school-based group. Students, counselors, social workers, and teachers report that the program allows participants to integrate their loss experiences into their lives in a meaningful way.

Objectives

- To provide grieving students with an emotionally safe and contained group environment.
- To offer the opportunity for grieving students to support each other in a group setting.

Group Structure

- Facilitated by a trained Peter's Place clinician who partners with the school social worker, counselor, or intern to facilitate grief work using a peer support model.
- Peter's Place enrolls students in the group due to the death of someone important in their lives: parent, sibling, grandparent, friend, cousin, etc.
- A school staff member will be an active member of the group, sitting with the group, and participating in discussions and activities. This may include sharing information relating to their personal grief.
- Follows an eight-week curriculum and meets once a week for 45 minutes or one class period.
- Occurs during academic classes, not during lunch or recess.
- Requires a minimum of six students, maximum of 10 students
- Supports students within two years of age (example 4-6, 9-11, etc.) using developmentally appropriate curriculum and activities.
- Utilizes a variety of creative art-, play-, and discussion-based activities to meet the needs of students.
- Offers safety and privacy and is held in a dedicated space such as the library, counseling office, meeting room, or classroom that is free from interruptions.

Peter's Place...

- Provides all necessary supplies.
- Ensures facilitators have necessary clearances, including criminal history, child abuse, and FBI.
- Offers this service at no charge to the school.
- Educates school staff through professional development and workshops regarding grief, and working with the grieving student as requested.



Enrollment Process

- Peter's Place is now utilizing an open enrollment process. Counselors may submit Assessment, Caregiver Permission, and Pre-Group Questionnaire forms throughout the school year.
- Enrollment opens in August and ends in March.
- Once six permission forms are received from students within the same age range/grade, you will be contacted to discuss scheduling the group for one of the three sessions (see dates below).
- All required forms can be found on PetersPlaceOnline.org/School-Based-Peer-Support-Groups
- If maximum capacity has been met for your preferred session, you will be scheduled for the next available session. This may include, being offered a group for the following school year if capacity is reached for Spring during the current school year.
- Students are required to submit new forms at the start of each school year.

Important Dates

Tuesday, August 27

School-Based Information Session via Zoom (**Registration Required**)

Thursday, September 26

Pre-Group Session for Counselors/School Staff via Zoom (**Mandatory**)

September 30 to November 17

Fall Session

Thursday, October 24

School-Based Information Session via Zoom (**Registration Required**)

Thursday, December 12

Pre-Group Session for Counselors/School Staff via Zoom (**Mandatory**)

January 5 to February 23

Winter Session

Thursday, March 6

Pre-Group Session for Counselors/School Staff via Zoom (**Mandatory**)

March 9 to May 18

Spring Session

Please note the schedule is subject to change.

