



Resources for Educators during the Trials of the Former Officers Involved in the Death of George Floyd

The School Climate Center in the Division of School Support provides assistance to local school districts and Minnesota educators on implementing transformative school climate improvement initiatives for racial equity. This focus can help districts and networks to create safe and supportive schools. We work so that all Minnesota students have school environments that maximize their learning potential to be successful in school and in life.

We have students and staff alike still grieving the profound loss of life of someone in our community. Meanwhile, the trials of the former police officers involved in the death of George Floyd have begun and will continue for a long time. Many people will be affected, directly and indirectly, including our colleagues, staff, families, students and communities. We know that educators are working hard to support their students and families given the impact the trials will have on the community.

The Minnesota Department of Education website page, [responding to Trauma and Tragedy](#), offers a variety of resources for educators. General guidance is offered on how to talk about [traumatic events and tragedies](#), as well as links to national resources. We have provided additional resources for consideration below.

Resources for Adult and Student Learning

The educational resources below are relevant to both adults and students and are a sampling of resources that educators may consider using. Listing them below does not equal an endorsement. Educators should consider age-appropriateness when considering resources for use in the classroom or with students.

[Addressing Race and Trauma in the Classroom: A Resource for Educators](#) from the National Child Traumatic Stress Network.

[Circle Forward](#), a book for keeping talking circles, has a number of outlines for circle that may be useful in helping students process their thoughts, questions and feelings during the trial. However, those circles on equity and life's unfairness are best used as part of an on-going circle practice. Unless you have been supported in learning the circle process and supported in how to hold a space for students of color and LGBTQ+ students, consider other ways of supporting students in expressing or sharing their feelings and concerns.

[Learning for Justice](#) (formerly [Teaching Tolerance](#)) offers [teaching strategies](#) and lesson plans for teaching about racism and current events. The resource, '[When Bad Things are Happening](#)' offers guidance for supporting yourself and your students who may want to discuss a crisis as it unfolds.

The [Learning Network](#) shared an article about last summer's protests, along with discussion questions, and opened comments for students to share their opinion. They have a blog post for educators with ["10 Ways to Talk About Sensitive Issues in the News."](#)

[Morningside Center for Teaching Social Responsibility](#) has current events lesson plans regarding elections, conspiracy theories and national turmoil. They provide resources for social emotional learning (SEL), restorative practices (RP) and racial equity. Teachable Moment Lessons. Timely resources to help K-12 educators encourage social responsibility and foster social and emotional learning.

PBS News Hour Extra released [a lesson plan for grades 6-12](#) about the death of George Floyd. The plan includes a news video (that omits the footage of Floyd's death) and discussion questions about the protests, police brutality, and media literacy.

Ramsey County Public Health offers ideas for calming activities in the [Virtual Calm Room](#). Mindful or awareness practices for both adults and students can help prepare people for conversations through calming breathing and movement. Paying attention to our breathing makes it easier for us to connect to our thinking brain.

[The Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine](#) has created an [Anti-Racism Toolkit](#) to provide access to resources to help adolescent health professionals combat racism, promote racial justice, reduce health disparities, and advance health equity for youth. The toolkit supports SAHM members in implementing the recommendations of the 2018 position paper, [Racism and Its Harmful Effects on Nondominant Racial–Ethnic Youth and Youth-Serving Providers: A Call to Action for Organizational Change](#).

Resources to Support Mental Health of Students

In addition, here are websites and resource pages to consider that are specific to addressing student mental health needs.

[The American Academy of Pediatrics](#) (AAP) parenting webpage, [Healthy Children](#), offers guidance under the title "What's Going On? Help Kids Cope with Frightening News Events. In addition, the AAP provides guidance to parents, teachers, child care providers, and others who work closely with children to filter information about a crisis and present it in a way that their child can accommodate, adjust to, and cope with. To learn more, visit the [Talking to Children about Tragedies & Other News Events page](#) on the AAP website.

The Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) [Parent, Family and Caregiver Resources page](#) contains numerous resources that provide tips, tools, strategies and lessons for K-12 educators, administrators, students and family members including "Table Talk: Family Conversations About Current Events."

[Black Emotional and Mental Health \(BEAM\) Collective](#) has graphics, videos, and toolkits designed to be shared for educational purposes.

[Glazer Children's Museum](#) offers resources for educators, parents, and children related to talking about the current events.

[Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health](#) has posted on their website [traumatic event resources](#) for adults working with children.

[The National Association of School Psychologists](#) offers [Diversity](#) resources on social justice, cultural competency, LGBTQ Youth and disproportionality.

The [University of Maryland School of Medicine's National Center for School Mental Health](#) has a repository of mental health resources and webinars related to Cultural Responsiveness and Equity

[Sesame Street in Communities](#) offers guidance for talking with younger children about [traumatic experiences](#).

[The University of Michigan's Center for Research for Learning and Teaching](#) page entitled [Responding to Difficult Moments](#) offers resources providing strategies for anticipating and responding to difficult discussions and reactions.