

Grief Sensitive Schools Initiative

Childhood grief is a pervasive problem, yet it is too frequently overlooked. Nearly 1 in 20 children in the U.S. will lose a parent before age 16* and the vast majority of children will experience the loss of a family member or friend by the time they complete high school.

Kids who lose a parent suffer in silence. The impact can be profound. Grieving children are at a much greater risk for depression, suicide, and substance abuse.

Along with National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement, the New York Life Foundation convened the Coalition to Support Grieving Students – a unique collaboration of the leading professional organizations representing classroom educators, principals, administrators, school support personnel, and other professionals – which created and endorsed educational materials and tools to help all members of the school community help grieving students. The result is a website, www.GrievingStudents.org, and materials to share with schools everywhere. Additionally, eligible schools or their PTO's can receive a \$500 grant.

Erik Brown, CFP New York Life

Erik Brown started his career as an agent for New York Life Insurance Company in 2009 and since then has been committed to helping his clients work toward achieving their financial goals. At ten years old, he lost his father to lung cancer. Says Erik, “Seeing my mom go through that stressful time, concerned about getting through it emotionally and financially, made me want to go into a career like financial services.”

Erik received from The Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University his bachelor’s degree in Finance and his Executive Certificate in Financial Planning. Erik has also obtained his CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ certification from the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards, Inc., whose mission is to benefit the public by granting the CFP® certification and upholding it as the recognized standard of excellence for competent and ethical personal financial planning.

As a member of New York Life’s Executive Council 2018, Erik ranks him among the top quarter of agents company-wide as measured by production. He is also a member of the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table 2015-2017 and a member of the National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA).