



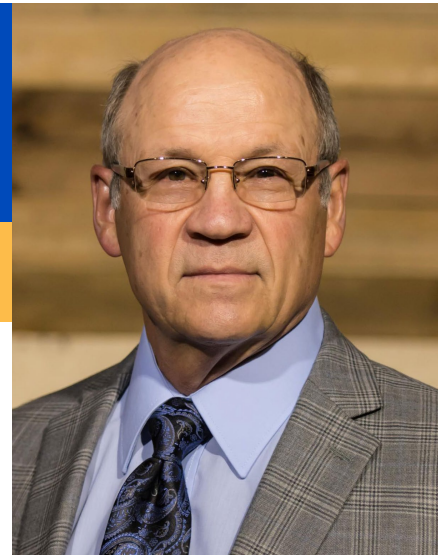
NATIONAL CENTER for
YOUTH ISSUES

6101 Preservation Drive • Chattanooga, TN 37416 • www.ncyi.org

Speakers Bureau

Dave Opalewski

NATIONAL LEVEL SPEAKER, AUTHOR AND EDUCATOR



Dave Opalewski is President of Grief Recovery Inc., in Saginaw, Michigan, a certified Death and Dying and Suicide Prevention Instructor for Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, Michigan. He is also a certified support group facilitator and child trauma specialist, along with being a 33 year veteran of K-12 education; 25 years as a classroom teacher and 8 years as the Director of At-Risk Programs. He worked 3 years part time in a funeral home as an aftercare consultant, working with families of the deceased and pioneered the Saginaw County Aftercare Adult Support Group. He is ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) trained.

His published books include *15-Minute Focus – GRIEF: Processing and Recovery*, *Answering Cry For Help*, and many others. Dave Opalewski has been published several times in professional journals and is a highly sought after speaker at state and national conferences conducting professional development trainings for several school districts throughout the Country. He was recognized as the "2010 Advocate of the Year" at Central Michigan University for guiding college freshman and a nominee for the 2010/11 and 2012/13 "Excellence in Education" Award. He has recently retired as Professor Emeritus for Central Michigan University in the Teacher Education and Professional Development Department.

A BRIEF LOOK AT DAVE'S SESSIONS

Confronting Death in the School Family

This session is designed to assist school staff to develop appropriate and helpful procedures and policies in dealing with tragedy for students, as well as themselves, as they care for the school family. The afternoon portion of the workshop explores helpful concepts in understanding children grief and adolescent grief, as well as basic grief theory. It is not the expression, but the suppression of feelings that is most harmful when going through a painful loss. When working with grieving children and adolescents, we discover their two greatest needs are for trust and truth. This presentation will help participants expand their knowledge and skills in guiding children and adolescents through the grief process.

Suicide and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury Prevention, Intervention and Postvention

This session will explore the prevalence and difference of these self-destructive behaviors. Learn how to distinguish between suicidal (lethal) and non-suicidal (non-lethal) behaviors, and learn about a three step process used in working with a suicidal person (why and how). Come and discover coping techniques which can be taught to someone who is self-injurious. Also, learn how to help parents to appropriately support a suicidal or self-injurious child. Misconceptions associated with suicidal and self-injurious behaviors, risk factors for youth who self-injure and postvention (creating healing and encouraging school environments in response to these issues) will also be discussed.

Turn over to see the books that Dave has authored

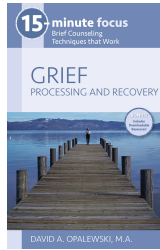
Contact Robert Rabon at rrabon@ncyi.org or 423-309-4300 to engage Dave for your event

15-Minute Focus - GRIEF: Processing and Recovery

Brief Counseling Techniques that Work

In this book, Opalewski gives schools a guide for addressing the death of a student or staff member, including what to say and what not to say to students along with helpful communication and intervention strategies for school counselors, educators, and administrators.

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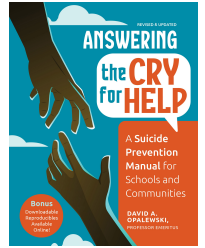


Answering the Cry for Help

A Suicide Prevention Manual for Schools and Communities

This revised and updated edition has topics that focus on recognizing warning signs, intervening effectively, building a crisis response team, securing resources, and creating a supportive school environment. This book is currently available as an eBook only.

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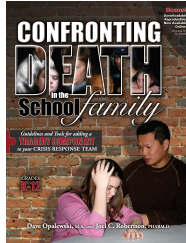


Confronting Death In The School Family

Co-author: Joel Robertson

Guidelines and tools to help your crisis response team respond to the death of a student or staff member. Includes procedures for response, sample announcements, comprehensive classroom plans, and worksheets for parents and teachers. A suicide prevention curriculum is also included.

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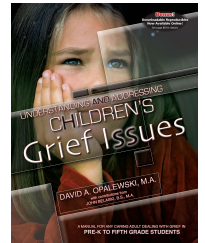


Understanding & Addressing Children's Grief Issues

Co-author: John Belaski

This workbook will help adults understand what a child is going through and get comprehensive techniques to address the situation. Make a positive difference in a young person by fostering growth and helping them understand and cope with their feelings.

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Understanding & Addressing Adolescent Grief Issues

Co-author: Joel Robertson

Death is a terrible shock for the adolescent. Understand what the adolescent is going through and get comprehensive techniques to address the situation.

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