

## Keynote Speaker David J. Schonfeld, MD, FAAP

### *"Supporting the Grieving Child and Family"*

#### Meet Dr. David Schonfeld

David J. Schonfeld, MD, FAAP, established and directs the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement ([www.schoolcrisiscenter.org](http://www.schoolcrisiscenter.org)) at the Children's Hospital Los Angeles; the Center coordinates the Coalition to Support Grieving Students ([www.grievingstudents.org](http://www.grievingstudents.org)), comprised of over 150 professional organizations.

Dr. Schonfeld is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and Professor of Clinical Pediatrics at the Keck School of Medicine of USC. He has authored more than 150 scholarly articles, book chapters and books (e.g., *The Grieving Student: A Guide for Schools*, Brookes Publishing). For over 35 years, he's supported schools and communities after crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, numerous school shootings/stabbings and suicides across the United States and abroad, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, wildfires across the United States and globally.

His school-based research involves children's understanding of and adjustment to serious illness and death and school-based interventions to promote adjustment and risk prevention. He is Chair of National Advisory Committee on Children and Disasters and a former member of the Executive Committee of the American Academy of Pediatrics Council on Children and Disasters. He served as a Commissioner for the National Commission on Children and Disasters and the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission and was President of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics from 2006-7.



#### Listen & Learn from Dr. Schonfeld

Join Dr. Schonfeld as he explores the distinction between trauma and grief and offers practical strategies for building grief-sensitive organizations, schools, and communities. Participants will examine why it is essential to speak openly about death, grief, and loss, while also considering cultural perspectives on grieving, accommodations for grieving individuals, considerations related to commemoration and memorialization, strategies for minimizing compassion fatigue, and ways organizations can support and respond to grief within the broader community. Drawing from David's extensive experience, stories, and professional insights supporting communities after crisis including school shootings/stabbings, natural disasters, suicide and other crisis events, the session will provide practical ideas for supporting grieving children, families, staff, and communities.

## Join Us at our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Canadian Children's Grief Symposium!

Children's understanding and expression of grief is shaped by their life experiences and evolves with their development, and while most can adapt with family and community support, some require additional interventions to promote healthy coping strategies, wellbeing and resilience. While families are the primary source of support for grieving children, communities, professionals, and organizations play a vital role in fostering compassion and grief literacy to help ensure that no child grieves alone.

Join our virtual symposium to explore strategies and the emotional, social, and developmental needs of young people who are grieving, while also highlighting the importance of working together to strengthen the personal and collective resilience of families and communities. This annual event is held in honour of Grieving Children Awareness Day.

The Canadian Alliance for Children's Grief (CACG) is the first Canadian national group of professionals working together to ensure the accessibility of bereavement support and information to grieving children and families. Thank you to our Symposium leadership partners.

For more information visit our website or follow us on social media! ***Tickets go on sale in August!***

[www.grievingchildrencanada.org/grief-symposium](http://www.grievingchildrencanada.org/grief-symposium) 

[Facebook.com/CACGORG](https://Facebook.com/CACGORG) 

[Instagram.com/CACGORG](https://Instagram.com/CACGORG) 

### Tickets

**\$200 General Admission**

**\$125 Student/Senior**

**\$250 (includes access to 2 day Symposium AND 1 Year CACG Membership. Includes access to monthly newsletters, resources, latest research and more!)**

***ALL ticket registrations include access to over 25 hours of recorded sessions and resources! Recordings are available until February 2027***