



Olga Hugelmeyer, Ed. D.  
Superintendent of Schools

January 16, 2025

Dear Elizabeth Public Schools Learning Community,

On behalf of Elizabeth Public Schools, it is with profound sadness that I inform you of the passing of a student from Dr. Antonia Pantoja School No. 27.

His loss will be deeply felt throughout our entire learning community, particularly within the School No. 27 community where he touched the lives of many.

We understand that the loss of a friend or classmate can be incredibly difficult. Please know that support is available to anyone who may be struggling with this loss or has questions or concerns. We encourage you to reach out to any of the following resources:

- **Traumatic Loss Coalition** provides support to communities affected by traumatic events: <https://ubhc.rutgers.edu/education/trauma-loss-coalition/overview.xml>
- **Imagine** is a center for coping with loss: <https://imagine.nj.org/>
- **One Source EAP** – 1-800-300-0628 – is a confidential district wide support that offers counseling with no co-pays for up to six sessions.
- The **NJEA helpline** – 866-AID-NJEA (866-243-6532) – is a confidential, accessible, and resourceful support line available for NJEA members and their families. This toll-free help line is based out of Rutgers University Behavioral Health Care

If you would like additional information or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your school's crisis team or Dawn Di Nardo-Lippi, District Social Worker, at 908-436-5239. We are saddened by this tragic loss to our school community and will make every effort to help those in need of assistance.

We offer our thoughts and prayers to his family and friends as they endure this tremendous loss. May God bless them and may they find peace during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Olga Hugelmeyer

**Office of the Superintendent of Schools**