

# David Schonfeld

**Professor of the Practice of Social Work Dept. of Children Youth and Families at USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work**

Los Angeles, CA, US

Developmental-Behavioral Pediatrician

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## Biography

DAVID SCHONFELD is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician and director of the National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement (NCSCB). He holds a joint appointment at the Keck School of Medicine of USC.

In 2005, Schonfeld established the NCSCB with funding from the September 11th Children's Fund and the National Philanthropic Trust. Further funding from the New York Life Foundation has allowed the center to provide ongoing and expanded services. The center aims to promote an appreciation of the role that schools play to support students, staff and families at times of crisis and loss; to collaborate with organizations and agencies to further this goal; and to serve as a resource for information, training materials, consultation and technical assistance.

Schonfeld has authored more than 100 scholarly articles, book chapters and books (e.g., *The Grieving Student: A Teacher's Guide*, Brookes Publishing) and has given more than 800 presentations on the topics of pediatric bereavement and crisis. He has provided consultation and training on school crisis and pediatric bereavement in the aftermath of a number of school crisis events and disasters within the United States and abroad, including school and community shootings in Newtown, Connecticut; Marysville, Washington; Aurora, Colorado, Chardon, Ohio; and Townville, South Carolina; flooding from hurricanes Sandy in New York and New Jersey, Katrina in New Orleans, and Ike in Galveston, Texas; 2008 earthquake in Sichuan, China; tornadoes in Joplin, Missouri and Alabama; and Great Smoky Mountain wildfires in Sevierville, Tennessee. He has also conducted school-based research (funded by NICHD, NIMH, NIDA, the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, William T. Grant Foundation and other foundations) involving children's understanding of and adjustment to serious illness and death, as well as school-based interventions to promote adjustment and risk prevention.

Schonfeld is a member the American Academy of Pediatrics Disaster Preparedness Advisory Council, serving as commissioner for both the National Commission on Children and Disasters as well as the Sandy Hook Advisory Commission in Connecticut. He was president of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics from 2006 to 2007.

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## Industry Expertise

Social Services, Health and Wellness, Education/Learning, Health Care - Services

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## Areas of Expertise

Risk Prevention, School-Based Research, Grief Counseling, Pediatrics, Crises and Bereavement, School Crisis Events, Illness and Death

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## **Affiliations**

2017 H. Garry Gardner Memorial Lecturer, Illinois Chapter of the American Academy , Nepalese Congress in Pediatrics, Kathmandu, Nepal, Appointed by the American Academy of Pediatrics to National Pediatric Disaster Coalition Executive Committee

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## **Education**

**Boston University**  
MD

**Boston University**  
BA

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## **Accomplishments**

**White House President's Gold Award**  
2016  
From the Corporation for National and Community Service

**Honorary Fellow**  
From the Philippine Society for Developmental  
and Behavioral Pediatrics

**Wakeman Lectureship (Pediatric Grand Rounds)**  
2012  
Yale University School of Medicine

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