



Shiawassee

Regional Education Service District

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As news of the latest school shooting continues in the media, we again see the faces of children, parents, and school staff shocked by another school tragedy. We cannot accept these tragedies as a normal part of life in America. Although not all local school districts have had issues with threats, we recognize it is a challenge in some communities after the events earlier this week.

For many years, our schools have built a strong and supportive relationships with law enforcement and other first responders. They have advised us on how to better secure our schools in a variety of ways. Across the county we have limited access to buildings to single, secured entries, added security cameras, and modified windows and exterior doors. We conduct emergency drills in all of our school buildings every year, including inviting in law enforcement or first responders to review our protocols and to offer suggestions on improvements. As school districts, we will continue to meet with the local police, county law enforcement, and first responders to coordinate our collective procedures and protocols involving a crisis situation.

Please make sure your child knows they must tell a trusted adult immediately if they feel their school is threatened in any way. This includes sharing information about weapons or threatening acts of violence in person or online. Students, families, or other individuals who have information about any potentially harmful event should immediately contact local law enforcement and school officials directly. The state of Michigan has a confidential online tip system called OK2SAY (<https://ok2say.state.mi.us/>) which allows anyone to confidentially report tips on criminal activities or potential harm directed at Michigan students, school employees, or schools. You can call 911, or confidentially contact OK2SAY via phone: 855-565-2729, text: 652729, or email at OK2SAY@mi.gov.

Shiawassee County Superintendents, local law enforcement, and the Shiawassee County Prosecutor are asking parents to please take the time and talk with your child(ren) about the incident that occurred in Oxford and the consequences of these subsequent posts. Please help us emphasize with your child(ren) the disruptions to the school environment and the extraordinary strain that is being placed on local law enforcement that is trying to investigate each of them.

The consequences of any false threats should also be explained. Making threats of violence against a school is a crime - even if the threat is false or a "joke," and sharing or posting unknown threats is extremely traumatizing. Under Michigan Law, anyone who commits a False Report or Threat of Terrorism is subject to penalties that include 20 years' prison sentence and/or \$20,000 as well as reimbursement for expenses incurred from the violation. Also, using a computer to commit a crime in certain instances also contains a 20-year maximum penalty. Please speak to your children and assure them law enforcement will investigate every threat and take necessary action to protect our communities.

Finally, we need your support in helping our children cope with the painful feelings that may be triggered by the tragedy in Oxford. The National Association of School Psychologists has provided [tips for parents](#). Help your child express their feelings by making the time to ask them questions, listen, and then help them process by pointing out safeguards and what to do during an emergency.

Across Shiawassee County, please know that we stand united as a community against all acts of violence. We are stronger and safer when we work together as students, parents, staff, and community members.

Sincerely,

Shiawassee County Superintendents Association

John Fattal, Superintendent, Corunna Public Schools

Craig McCrumb, Superintendent, Durand Area Schools

Matt Shastal, Superintendent, Laingsburg Community Schools

Rob Pouch, Superintendent, Morrice Area Schools

Anthony Berthiaume, Superintendent, New Lothrop Area Public Schools

Andrea Tuttle, Superintendent, Owosso Public Schools

Lori Haven, Superintendent, Perry Public Schools

David Schulte, Superintendent, Shiawassee RESD and Acting Superintendent, Byron Area Schools

Our Mission: Provide knowledge driven, research based, direct and collaborative services that support and guide quality learning, innovation and diversity.