



A Joint Message from the Placer County Sheriff's Office and Placer County Office of Education

It is with great sorrow and disbelief that our country has faced yet another horrific tragedy involving its students, losing two selfless educators and nearly 20 young scholars in Uvalde, Texas on May 24, 2022. As we digest the information that has been released over the last few weeks, emotions of sadness, anger, and confusion are felt across the nation.

While we know schools remain among the safest places for students, we also know this recent tragedy may cause heightened concern about safety issues. It is important for Placer County families to know that school districts are constantly evaluating the measures they have in place to keep students and staff safe. Furthermore, the Placer County Sheriff's Office (PCSO) and the Placer County Office of Education (PCOE) have a long-standing collaborative partnership aimed to appropriately prevent, intervene, and respond to potentially violent episodes in local schools.

Since 2013, PCOE has invested nearly \$500,000 to county-wide school safety efforts in collaboration with law enforcement, which includes the establishment of the Countywide School District Safety Committee. PCSO and PCOE continue to work together to conduct ongoing threat assessments and to address threatening or concerning behaviors before they lead to violence on school campuses.

Additionally, PCOE has organized more than 25 safety trainings throughout the county totaling approximately 14,000 staff hours. Examples include: Active Shooter training, Behavioral Intervention/Threat Assessment training, Stop the Bleed training, Reunification training, Crisis Media training, Incident Command training, as well as Front Desk Safety and Security training.

We are proud to share that every school in Placer County has a Comprehensive School Safety Plan, which is evaluated and updated annually. Schools also conduct spontaneous drills and consistently discuss their planned safety measures with students and staff.

Together, PCSO and PCOE encourage a continued culture of "see something, say something" to ensure we are all working to create a safe space for our youth, allowing them to learn and thrive. Everyone in our community plays a vital role in maintaining this expectation of public safety.

We are eager to continue the promotion of open dialogue between educators, parents, and community members around violence. These important conversations are essential as we work to ensure a safe learning environment for all students.