

March 2, 2018

As we continue to process the magnitude of school shootings and social media disturbances that are taking place throughout the country, L.A. Unified remains vigilant in our commitment to school safety. This is the first in a series of ongoing updates to inform our school communities of specific steps we have taken to maintain safe campuses. I invite you to view a message from the Interim Superintendent, Vivian Ekchian, at <https://achieve.lausd.net/superintendent>.

Emergency Preparedness and Prevention

Annual Safe School Plans

All schools comply with *California Education Code* requirements regarding the development, revision, and updating of comprehensive school safety plans using a collaborative process, to include parents, various stakeholders and law enforcement. School Safety Plans are reviewed and certified annually to ensure that they are current and effective.

Coordination with Law Enforcement

This week, the Los Angeles School Police Department (LASPD) met with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other law enforcement agencies to continue our collaboration in response to school safety issues.

Response to Social Media Threats

The LASPD continues to respond to social media threats. The LASPD is working hand-in-hand with the Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles County Sheriffs, and other law enforcement partners to ensure coordinated efforts in addressing any safety concerns. Please know that the LASPD and our law enforcement partners take these threats seriously. Investigators and school police officers immediately investigate all threats received. These threats are unlawful, regardless of intention, and may result in serious criminal and civil consequences that include possible financial restitution for hours spent on investigations. They may also have serious administrative consequences at the school level, including possible expulsion and graduation implications.

Emergency Operations Center Drill

The District conducted a drill at its Emergency Operation Center with first responders to review emergency response procedures and campus safety-related issues. These drills will continue to be held throughout the year.

Enhancing Emergency Communication Protocols

Districtwide Test of Emergency Communication System

In the event of an emergency, it is critical that families and employees receive timely notifications. On February 28, 2018, the District conducted a test of its emergency communication system (phone, email, and text) to ensure that the system is working properly.

Parents and guardians, please remember that you play an important role in our emergency notification system and it is critical that we have updated contact information, including your mobile phone number and email address. Your contact information may be updated in person, at your child's school, or through the parent portal that can be accessed at <http://passportapp.lausd.net/parentaccess/>

Districtwide Test of Emergency Radio System

The District conducted a test of its emergency radio system this week, which schools use during emergencies to communicate with other schools and school police.

Methods to Report Safety Concerns

We would also like to inform you that there are three tools that students, families, and employees can use to anonymously report non-emergency safety-related concerns 24 hours per day (emergencies should be reported to 911):

- The LASPD "Weapons Hotline" (1-800-954-HELP)
- "CrimeStoppers" (1-800-222-8477)
- "WeTip" (1-800-78-CRIME)

On-Campus Activities for Student Expression

On February 20, 2018, a safety update was distributed to all school administrators, providing guidance and information regarding the potential walkouts related to school safety issues. We also provided a variety of suggested resources strategies that schools can use to channel students' feelings into productive dialogue, action, and learning. In addition, our LASPD, operations teams, and local districts are prepared for coordinated responses.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to share safety updates describing measures taken to enhance and ensure the safety of all L.A. Unified students and employees.

Sincerely,

Los Angeles School Police Chief Steven K. Zipperman
Executive Director, District Operations, Dr. Darneika Watson-Davis