

December 4, 2019

Dear District Administrators:

I am alarmed and saddened by news of the recent school shooting incidents in Waukesha and Oshkosh, in addition to a number of school threats around the state. No words can express the anxiety and worry our parents, students, and staff feel following incidents like these.

I am writing to remind you of the supports and resources related to school and student safety, which the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) provides:

- digital materials on the [Safe Schools](#) webpage include emergency management planning tools, a crisis communications kit, and an [assessment tool](#) for identifying gaps and strengths in your violence prevention program, and
- information on the use of [School Resource Officers](#), including a [best practices guide](#).

Related frameworks, guidance, and resources offered by DPI's Student Services/Prevention and Wellness team include [suicide prevention](#), [social and emotional learning](#), [trauma sensitive schools](#), and [school mental health systems](#).

Also, the Wisconsin Safe and Healthy (WISH) Schools Training and Technical Assistance Center can help you implement programs to address mental health challenges and promote school safety. The WISH Center can be reached at (608) 786-4838.

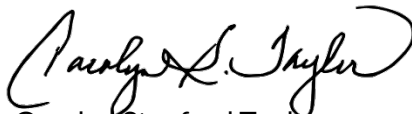
Other helpful resources include:

- the Wisconsin Department of Justice's [Office of School Safety](#),
- the National Association of School Psychologists' "[Talking To Children about School Violence](#)" [tip sheet](#) for parents and teachers and [School Safety Teachable Moment](#) sample lesson plan, and
- a [developmental approach to talking about school violence](#), published by NBC's *Today*.

Please contact Brian Dean, DPI's education consultant, at brian.dean@dpi.wi.gov or (608) 266-8960 if you have questions regarding school safety and the resources mentioned above.

Thank you for all you do to ensure your students and staff are safe, supported, and successful.

Sincerely,



Carolyn Stanford Taylor
State Superintendent

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