



Santa Clara County Office of Education

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools

December 16, 2021

Good afternoon,

This morning we became aware of a concerning post that has been shared through the social media platform, TikTok. The post refers to a threat to school safety on Friday, December 17.

We have learned that the post is likely part of a national trend originating from TikTok and did not originate in any schools in Santa Clara County. However, we are tracking reports from other districts that have seen the same post circulating in their schools. While local law enforcement has informed us that they do not believe the threat to be credible, we are working with school districts to closely monitor the situation and provide necessary support and resources.

As we prioritize the safety and well-being of our students, it's important we stand in solidarity. The Santa Clara County Office of Education is continuing to communicate with community partners and local law enforcement to monitor the situation.

This circumstance is an opportunity to remind our students and families why it is important to avoid sharing posts online that refer to school safety threats. Even if they are not credible threats, they can cause a great deal of stress and anxiety for our students, families, and staff. We ask our families to monitor their children's social media activity and speak with them about proper online behavior and about strategies for reporting any suspicious activity they may witness.

As you share this information with your schools and communities, we encourage you to note that threatening a school, whether credible or not, is a serious matter and it is against the law. It is a violation of California Education Code, California Penal Code, and district and school policies and could result in:

- Arrest by local law enforcement
- Suspension or expulsion from school

If you and/or your child become aware of any potential threat posted to social media or anywhere else, please notify a school staff member or trusted adult right away.

As always, thank you for your partnership as we work to ensure a safe, secure, and positive learning environment for our students.

Be well,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Dewan".

Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D.
County Superintendent of Schools