

May 25, 2022

Dear Families and School Partners,

Yet, another unthinkable tragedy has schools and communities alarmed and deeply saddened as we learn the details of another mass shooting in America, this time at an elementary school in Texas.

The Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) extends its deepest sympathies to the victims, families and community of the Robb Elementary School shooting in Uvalde, Texas. Gun violence is a threat to the safety of children and youth, our school campuses and communities.

Creating safe spaces for youth to learn and thrive is our highest priority. The continued promotion of dialogue between educators, parents, and community members around violence prevention is essential as we work to ensure safe learning environments for all students.

We will keep the lives of those lost at Robb Elementary School and their families in our hearts and minds.

Educators can find resources for violence prevention and health & wellness by visiting <u>https://www.sccoe.org/safe-and-healthy/Pages/default.aspx</u>. Additional resources for parents, educators, and our community are also available:

- <u>Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth After the Recent Shooting</u> (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network English/Spanish)
- <u>Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers</u> (National Association of School Psychologists)
- <u>Helping Children Cope with Frightening News</u> (Child Mind Institute)
- <u>Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting</u> (American Counseling Association)
- <u>Trauma and Disaster Mental Health</u> (American Counseling Association)
- <u>Teaching in the Wake of Violence</u> (Facing History and Ourselves)

In partnership,

Dr. Mary Ann Dewan County Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Jessica Bonduris Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services

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