



Tragedy in Texas May 25, 2022

Dear SVUSD Community,

Our hearts go out to the families in Uvalde, Texas. The actions of an individual have caused unspeakable tragedy and we all mourn the loss of the students and teachers of Robb Elementary School.

SVUSD received personal phone calls from the Orange County Sheriff's Department (OCSD) late yesterday afternoon. We have been reassured that the Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (OCIAC), a fusion center with the OCSD, FBI and U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is monitoring the situation and they have no reason to believe at this time that the incident in Texas was anything other than isolated. As a precautionary measure, OCSD will have an increased presence at our schools. We thank OCSD for their consistent care and attention.

The safety of Saddleback Valley Unified School District's students and staff is a top priority. Each SVUSD school has a comprehensive safety plan that is created in collaboration with its School Resource Officer and updated yearly. Safety drills are conducted regularly to practice reactions to a variety of potential situations. Such possible reactions may include sheltering in place, lockdown, or fleeing, and staff are trained yearly on DEE protocol (Deny Access, Evade, Engage). Should a situation arise, each site has a reunification plan to make sure that our students are safely and securely reunited with their families. Additionally, the District has a Safety Committee comprised of district and site staff, parent representatives and the Orange County Sheriff's Department, who are committed to keeping our schools safe.

We know that an incident such as this may cause particular worry or concern on the part of our students. SVUSD is fortunate to have school counselors available to talk to students who may need extra support. If you feel your student needs to speak to a counselor, please reach out to an administrator or someone in the Guidance Office for assistance. Staff will also be notified to refer students who appear confused or having a difficult time. The district has available resources on its [Mental Health page](#) on how to speak to children and support them in [response to gun violence](#) and [general acts of violence](#). There are also additional resources in the Wellness Toolkit. We also encourage you to utilize the following resources shared by Orange County Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Al Mijares:

- [OCDE Newsroom: How to help children cope with tragic events](#)
- [American Psychological Association: Helping your children manage distress in the aftermath of a shooting](#)
- [CHOC: Helping children cope with mass violence](#)
- [Common Sense Media: How to Talk to Kids About School Shootings](#)

As partners, we encourage our SVUSD community to remain vigilant and report any suspicious or concerning behavior immediately to the Orange County Sheriff's Department Dispatch at (714) 647-7000. For an emergency, call 911.

Sincerely,

Dr. Crystal Turner
Superintendent
Saddleback Valley Unified School District