

## TikTok Challenge & National School Threat

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Families,

USD 444 has become aware of a troubling post that has been shared widely this week on the social media platform TikTok. The post refers to a threat to school safety “for every school in the USA, even elementary,” today. The post appears to be part of a national TikTok trend and did not originate in our school district. We have heard reports from other districts that the post is circulating in their schools. While we do not believe the threat to be credible, we are closely monitoring the situation and taking it seriously. We will have an increased presence in our buildings on Friday, December 17th, as an added precaution from our school SRO. This situation serves as a good example of 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 behavior online. If you 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 school environment.

Sincerely,

Brent Garrison  
Superintendent of Schools