



May 25, 2022

Harvard Families,

Like many of you, I'm feeling the sadness, anger, and confusion following the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. The horror of nineteen children and two educators killed at school is upsetting. When a tragedy happens in a community similar to ours, it's enough to make anyone feel unsettled.

Allow me to share a couple of supports that may help our Harvard CUSD 50 community during this time:

- Please know that we are here for your kids. In the last four years, we have added counselors, social workers, character education instructors, student support facilitators, and additional bilingual support to better serve the needs of our students. If this incident has caused any anxiety or negative reaction in your child, please reach out to the main office at your child's school and ask for help. Even the slightest concern is enough to have us check in with your child. Although the school year is ending, we'll stay connected to kids as long as they need support, throughout the summer, in any way possible.
- There are also supports and resources available to you and your family, both locally and electronically.
  - [How to speak to your child about school shootings](#)
  - [How to address anxiety over school shootings](#)
  - [Local resources for families](#)
  - Discussing violence and hate ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#))
- Having worked in schools for my entire adult life, I remain convinced that **our best defense against senseless violence is caring for one another and speaking up if something seems out of the ordinary.** There is a cost in a world where it has become common to bash, criticize, and harass one another on social media and ridicule others for being different. Our children watch how adults behave and repeat our actions. We can all work to be an example of kindness, consideration, and love for our children. If you notice concerning behavior that could potentially endanger others, please speak up. For many school-based tragedies, there are known warning signs before the violence occurs. Please reach out to us the second you become concerned so we can work with our law enforcement partners to ensure everyone's safety.

If there is anything I can do to help you or your family, please do not hesitate to contact me. Schools are often the hub of a community our size. We embrace all of our families as partners in creating a caring and thriving community.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Corey Tafoya  
Harvard CUSD50 Superintendent