



Alma Public Schools

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May 26, 2022

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

With all of you, our hearts are once again broken as another school shooting has occurred at Robb Elementary in Uvalde, Texas. As we continue to learn about the sequence of events leading up to yet another horrifying act of violence, the demand for a heightened awareness and action to provide the safest schools for our students and staff is needed immediately! In order to ensure the safest schools for our children, we are asking you to join us by contacting our state and federal lawmakers to provide sustainable funding for school resource officers (in all districts), more counselors, social workers, and more programming for individuals requiring the care needed for mental health illnesses.

As superintendents of public schools in Gratiot and Isabella counties, we continue to work alongside our local and state law enforcement and community mental health agencies to provide the safest learning environments possible. Our students and staff's safety is our top priority, however we need to have the funding and resources to do more! Additionally, we are asking you to have very caring conversations with your students regarding the importance of mental health, and encourage them to share with you any concerns about how they are feeling, or if they observe any concerning behaviors or social media posts by their peers. Constant communication with your children and the open lines of communication with your local school can and will provide the safest environment for our children. Concerns can also be reported using Michigan's OK2SAY hotlines, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling 855-565-2729; texting OK2SAY (652729); or emailing OK2SAY@mi.gov.

We know that children and teens will process this news in different ways. Counselors are available at each of our school buildings to assist students who may need some extra support. We strongly encourage your student to reach out to a trusted adult and ask for additional support in school.

Again, we urge you to join us in contacting our state and federal lawmakers to provide the necessary resources for our schools safety. We are stronger and safer when we work together as students, parents, staff and community members.

Please join us in keeping the students, staff, and families of the Uvalde Consolidated Independent School District in our thoughts at this time.

Sincerely,

The Superintendents of Gratiot and Isabella County Public Schools:

Stacey Criner, Alma Public Schools
Wade Slavik, Breckenridge Community
Jennifer Verlerger, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools
Thomas Torok, Fulton Schools
Jennifer McKittrick, St. Louis Public Schools

William Chillman, Beal City Public Schools
Traci Gavenda, Ashley Community Schools
Steve Netzley, Ithaca Public Schools
Terry Starr, Shepherd Public Schools
Paul Hungerford, Gratiot-Isabella RESD