



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING


GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. RICE, Ph.D.
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 9, 2021

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht, Deputy Superintendent
P-20 System and Student Transitions 

SUBJECT: Family Support Safety and Security Resources

The shooting that occurred at Oxford High School is devastating and heartbreaking in a variety of ways. We mourn with the friends and families who lost loved ones in the attack and pray for a speedy recovery for the injured. As we work with our school communities to heal, the safety and well-being of our students, colleagues, and school community are of paramount importance.

This memorandum provides specific resources that you may find helpful to share with staff and families in your districts. We encourage programs and schools to share these resources to help children and families to talk about feelings associated with this tragedy.

"Communicating with children in the wake of this tragic event can be challenging but is important to help children re-establish a sense of safety and normalcy," stated Dr. Michael Rice, State Superintendent of the Michigan Department of Education. Supporting the mental health needs of survivors and those affected by this tragic event is vital.

According to The National Child Traumatic Stress Network, "Children's and teens' reactions to the shooting are strongly influenced by how parents, relatives, teachers, and other caregivers respond to the event. They often turn to these adults for information, comfort, and help. There are many reactions that are common after mass violence. These generally diminish with time but knowing about them can help you to be supportive, both of yourself and your children."

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[The National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) offers guidance for families and school personnel on helping their children after a shooting. This fact sheet describes common reactions children may have, how parents can help them, and self-care tips after an event through the resource document, "[Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth after the Recent Shooting.](#)"

Child Trends has produced a document, "[Resources to help children in the wake of a school shooting,](#)" that includes strategies for talking to children from infancy through adolescence as well as other helpful advice and resources.

The National Association of School Psychologists has produced resources intended to support parents and teachers, "[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)", in addition to several resources to address school violence.

[The National Parent Teachers Association](#) works to promote the safety and well-being of all children and youth, including the provision of family resources for family and school safety. This resource includes resources for parents and PTAs, including questions for families, how to mobilize family stakeholders, and a webinar for families on mobilizing for change.

As an additional resource for schools, the Michigan Department of Education shared this [memorandum](#) last week informing districts of the requirements in Michigan law for districts to develop emergency operation plans.

For more information, please contact Early Childhood Development and Family Education Director, Dr. Noel Kelty, keltyn@michigan.gov or 517-241-0162.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance
Confederation of Michigan Tribal Education Directors