

JOHN J. DEWANE
INGHAM COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

NICOLE R. MATUSKO
Chief Assistant Prosecutor



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Dear Parents and/ or Caregivers,

August 1, 2024

School safety is a paramount concern for us all, whether we are law enforcement officers, prosecutors, school officials, parents or students. We take student safety very seriously and will respond to any threat against our schools appropriately.

That is why the Sheriff, local law enforcement chiefs, school superintendents and I are reaching out to you. Threats of violence against our schools, whether real or fake, are crimes with serious consequences. These include threats made by social media, text messaging, and all other types of communication.

Potential criminal charges one could face if they make a threat of violence against a school may include:

- False report or threat of terrorism, a 20-year felony
- Intentional threat to commit act of violence against school, a 10-year felony
- Making a bomb threat, a 4-year felony
- Threatening violence against school employee or student, a 1-year misdemeanor
- Malicious use of a telecommunications device, a 6-month misdemeanor

Students may also face additional consequences: The loss of scholarships and federal aid; denied college admission; a criminal history that follows them into adulthood and prevents them from a potential career; being denied the chance to serve in the military.

Please talk to your children about the appropriate use of social media and the lasting consequences of making threats against our schools, employees, or students. In particular, that there is nothing funny about school threats and it's not a "joke" to talk about hurting others. Students are encouraged to use the "Okay2Say App", if they see something that threatens their fellow students.

Lastly, please remember that if you chose to keep a firearm in your home, that it must be unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box or container if a minor is present on the premises.

Let's have a safe and productive school year building a better future for our children.

Respectfully,


John J. Dewane
Ingham County Prosecuting Attorney

Law Enforcement:

Sheriff Scott Wriggelsworth (Ingham County Sheriff's Office), Chief Robert Backus (Lansing Police Department), Interim Chief Chad Pride (East Lansing Police Department), Chief Daryl Gaines (Lansing Community College and Public Safety), Chief John Joseph (Lansing Township Police Department), Chief Evan Bennehoff (Leslie Police Department), Chief Matthew Shutes (Mason Police Department), Chief Rick Grillo (Meridian Township Police Department), Chief Matthew Bartus (Stockbridge Police Department) Chief Jeff Weiss (Williamston Police Department), Chief Chris Rozman (Michigan State University Police Department) Lt. Brian Oleksyk (Michigan State Police 1st District)

Superintendents:

Jennifer Wonnell (Dansville Schools), Scott Powers (Leslie Public Schools), Andrew Smith (Webberville Community Schools), Dori Leyko (East Lansing Public Schools), Gary Kinzer (Mason Public Schools), Adam Spina (Williamston Community Schools), Patrick Malley (Haslett Public Schools), John Hood (Okemos Public Schools), Jason Mellema (Ingham Intermediate School District), David Hornak (Holt Public Schools), Brian Friddle (Stockbridge Community Schools) Ben Shuldiner (Lansing School District), Kelly Blake (Waverly Community Schools)