



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION



May 25, 2022

Dear Superintendents:

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) is shocked and saddened by the school shooting that occurred at the Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas on Tuesday, May 24, 2022. Our thoughts and prayers are with the victims, their families, and their entire community. We are currently in contact with the Connecticut Intelligence Center (CTIC), and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP) continues to monitor this situation to ensure appropriate supports are available for districts. When events such as this take place, there is often a rise in reported threats throughout the country. Please take this opportunity to review the protocols in your School Security and Safety Plans.

We know that such a senseless tragedy, even when it occurs in another state, places additional burdens and stressors on our families, students, and educators. It is important to remind your entire school community that each district has School Security and Safety Plans in place; has practiced crisis response drills; and has trained school personnel in how to support safe schools and prepare for crisis situations.

As educators, the safety and well-being of our students, colleagues, and school community is of paramount importance. Given this fact, I am sending this letter to provide specific resources that you may find helpful to share with staff and families in your districts and to provide information on ways the CSDE can be of assistance.

Please see the attached materials:

[The Center for the Study of Traumatic Stress \(CSTS\): Restoring a Sense of Well-Being in Children After a Disaster: Tips for Parents, Caregivers and Professionals](#)

[The National Child Traumatic Stress Network: Talking to Children about the Shooting](#)

[National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\): Talking to Children about Violence – Tips for Parents and Teachers](#)


[CSDE Resources Addressing Trauma, Violence, and Grief in the Aftermath of a Mass Shooting](#): was produced by CSDE staff. Please consult this document for links to additional resources.

The aforementioned resources will be made available on the [CSDE's website](#). Additionally, your investments in mental and behavioral health supports bolstered by the financial and statutory commitment of the most recent legislative session will continue supporting student and staff mental health and well-being. As the academic year draws to a close, we want to make sure that

those who might need help coping with this traumatic event find the assistance they need. As a reminder, adult and child Mobile Crisis providers can be accessed by school staff and families by dialing the United Way 2-1-1 Infoline.

State professionals are also available to assist you with questions or concerns that may arise in the aftermath of the horrific mass shooting in Uvalde. For questions regarding trauma, crisis, and school safety, please contact CSDE's Scott Newgass at scott.newgass@ct.gov. For technical assistance on School Security and Safety Plans, please contact DESPP's William Turley at william.turley@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charlene M. Russell-Tucker".

Charlene M. Russell-Tucker
Commissioner of Education