



Community Consolidated School District 46

Dr. Lynn Glickman, Superintendent

CCSD 46 | 565 Frederick Road, Grayslake, IL 60030 | 847-223-3650 | FAX 847-223-3695

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Dear CCSD 46 Community,

It had been my intent to send out one last 21-22 school year message with some end-of-year happiness and congratulations, and some updates for next year. That message will still come, but not today. Today we are pausing in the pain of the 21 lives lost yesterday at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, which closely follows an attack in a supermarket in Buffalo, New York.

My heart is very heavy, and I am sure that yours is, too. There is no way to feel truly ok when there has been a school shooting. Hopefully our children do not truly understand why parents and guardians are feeling the need to give them extra hugs.

Today, we focused on how to help our students and staff in whatever way was necessary. Teachers and other staff were ready to talk with students if they brought the topic up, and were able to gain the support of social workers, school psychologists, and administrators if students needed that extra support. However, for the most part, our students did not appear to seek that help, and went about their days as always. Some of them may not have known about the shooting, and others, sadly, may be used to hearing about terrible events.

We provided [this link](#) for staff as a resource for supporting the students, and we are sharing it with you as well. What did not come up at school may come up at home. If your child does bring up the topic and appears to need some support, or you need some help in addressing the concerns, please do reach out to your child's school for help.

I also want to take this opportunity to tell you about Care Solace, a complimentary and confidential mental health care coordination service provided by CCSD 46. If you or your family member is in need of support for a mental health or substance abuse issue, Care Solace can help. To find a mental health care provider who will help you through the challenges you are facing, contact [#CareSolace](#), at 888-515-0595 or www.caresolace.com/ccsd46.

As parents, guardians, and educators, we are people who need to process, but we also are people who need to act. With that in mind, today I am drawing your attention to the fact that at last Wednesday night's Board of Education meeting, members of our Safety and Security Committee brought forth a recommendation to adopt ALICE as a Situational Awareness protocol for our school district. ALICE is a

federally endorsed safety protocol for training adults and students on how to react in the event of an armed intruder. The ALICE protocol is also used in D127, so students would be able to take their training with them when they get to high school. The letters ALICE stand for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate:

- Alert – inform people of the threat, giving as much information as possible
- Lockdown – Students and Staff can choose to lockdown and barricade the room that they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evacuate
- Inform – pass on as much information as possible to others and to First Responders, including contacting 911
- Counter – an effort of last resort, if an armed intruder is able to get into the space that they are in; students are trained to use every effort to stop the intruder instead of being passive victims. This includes tactics such as making loud noises, movement instead of hiding, and throwing projectiles. This is only recommended for older students, and so we would not train our youngest students to counter
- Evacuate – If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building, thus removing themselves from the threat

At the June 1 Board of Education Meeting, the Board will formally vote on bringing in the ALICE protocol. Pending Board approval, the training for staff and students would occur in the fall, and would be preceded by information sessions for parents/guardians. I am very grateful to all of the members of our Safety and Security Committee, which is comprised of a wide variety of staff members and local law enforcement. The committee will continue to meet, and consider all aspects of safety and security in our school district.

That is all for now. You'll hear from me again next week as we wrap up the school year. In the meantime, I know that you are holding your children close.

Sincerely,

Dr. Lynn Glickman
Superintendent
CCSD 46