



LACEY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition Of Pride · A Tradition Of Excellence

VANESSA R. PEREIRA, PH.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

May 25, 2022

Dear Lacey Township School District School Community,

Like all of you, I am deeply saddened by the events that took place in Uvalde, Texas yesterday. Today, we express our condolences to the entire community of Uvalde and to the families who lost loved ones in this senseless tragedy.

As we began our day, we were all undoubtedly unnerved about these events, while being reflective about our own district's safety. I write to you today to let you know that the safety of our students and staff remains our number one priority. Our schools are currently patrolled by a combination of five armed Class III and School Safety Officers. This letter will serve to confirm that next year's budget **does include an allocation for five armed School Safety Officers, who will continue to be core members of our district staff, as well as liaisons between our community and the Lacey Township Police Department.** (If you would like to read the School Safety Officer job description that is posted on our website under Human Resources, please click [here](#).) It is worth noting that we have a very close working relationship with the Lacey Township Police Department and the Lacey Township Committee Members. Collaboratively, we are all committed to the partnership that is required to diligently protect our schools. With these relationships in mind, we continue to explore options to enhance and expand school security throughout our schools.

Regarding current measures, for several years now, we have put in place effective visitor management protocols to control who can and cannot access our school buildings. These protocols include security vestibules in each of the six schools and the implementation of Raptor Technologies, a digital background checker that is used to screen and clear *every* visitor who steps past the security vestibules into our schools.

Last night and this morning, I communicated with the district leadership team and asked that everyone remain vigilant in ensuring that our visitor management protocols are strictly followed, and I also spoke to Police Chief DiBella to coordinate the increased presence of police officers on school grounds. This was in place today and will continue for the remainder of the week. As an ALICE-certified district, we have provided a robust and dynamic set of protocols to address critical incidents. We will continue to enforce NJDOE's proactive monthly security drill guidance and will continue to train our students and staff in current security practices.

Our students - your children - are precious to us and their safety is of paramount importance to each professional in the Lacey Township School District. With these safety measures in mind, we look forward to continuing to teach your children, ensuring another successful year of learning and growth for all of them and for all of us.

Thank you for your continued effort in keeping the Lacey Township School District safe. Our thoughts and prayers will forever be with the entire Uvalde community.

Sincerely,

Vanessa R. Pereira
Superintendent of Schools