

Good evening Sierra Plumas families. This is Superintendent James Berardi with an important message about school safety.

With great sadness- I send this message to our community in light of the horrendous incident that took place in Texas earlier this week.

Our hearts broke with the news of yet another senseless shooting at an innocent elementary School. Our prayers for the families, staff, first responders and community of Uvalde.

The reason of this message is to inform you all of what we have been working on within Sierra County and more specifically our schools.

Recently, our administrators have been working with our sheriff department, CHP, other county agencies and local first responders. We created the Sierra County Safety Task Force to establish action plans, provide trainings and identify resources.

There has been several initial walkthroughs at several campuses, noting safety concerns both with the buildings themselves and some of the standard operating procedures.

We have also identified some of the pros of each school and how their individual layout/make up could be used during an incident.

We are putting on training days for the school staff at all schools, in an effort to help staff understand what the law enforcement response will be at this kind of incident, along with some tactical medicine training.

These trainings will also be used to address some questions and concerns that the staff have. We will be doing active shooter scenario training with multiple departments and school staff, which will further help them understand what first responders might do, and familiarize law enforcement personnel with the school sites so they will be more efficient at an incident.

These actions will be on-going as we continue to establish and refine procedures and logistics.

Understandably, this is a sensitive topic. There is no single answer for what to do, but we need to make sure that we do all that we can.

Though some parents or personnel may find the conversation uncomfortable, they may also find it reassuring to know that, as a whole, their school is thinking about how best to deal with this situation.

In addition to planning and training, we are exploring other ways to make our schools safer. The district is looking into

additional security cameras and ways to secure the doors as much as possible.

Again, it saddens me that I have to send out this message, but you all need to know that we take your child's and our staff's safety seriously.

Thank you all and have a good evening.