



Education Services Center. 5776 S. Crocker Street. Littleton, Colorado 80120. 303.347.3300.

October 10, 2014

Dear Littleton Public Schools Families and Staff:

This afternoon, the Arapahoe County Sheriff held a press conference and released his report of the findings from the investigation of the December 13, 2013 shooting at Arapahoe High School. I thanked the Sheriff for his report and for his leadership. Some of the report's detail was startling but confirmed the direction the Littleton Public Schools Board of Education has been taking, both before and after those events.

While the academic achievements of our students have been nothing short of impressive, the safety and welfare of our students and families -- physically, socially and emotionally -- is paramount.

As superintendent of this premier school district, it is my responsibility to provide an outstanding educational program and a variety of services in our schools. This was true before December 13, on December 13, and after December 13. We lost two members of our school community that day. Nothing I can say or do can change that.

What I can say, and what the actions we have taken demonstrate, is that we are moving forward to create a better future. We have partnered with the Littleton Police Department and the Arapahoe County Sheriff's office to increase the number of uniformed School Resource Officers in our schools beginning this school year. We continue to enhance security measures as outlined and funded in the 2013 Bond Program and approved by the voters in November, 2013.

Educating students and preparing them to succeed after they graduate from high school is our work. We also understand that parents and community agencies need our help to support families in crisis. We recognize that prevention is the key to reducing the risk of violence in our schools. As recommended by the Columbine Commission, LPS has had in place since 2008 a Behavioral Risk and Threat Assessment process that includes a mental health professional working with law enforcement, families, and other agencies. Our threat assessment process was developed in partnership with the United States Secret Service, the FBI, and national risk assessment experts.

We are regularly reviewing and improving this process so that we can help families before tragedy occurs. To this end, the LPS Board of Education has allocated an additional \$810,000 to increase the number of counselors, social workers and psychologists in our schools. Our school district is taking the lead in promoting the mental well-being of our community.

LPS has had a focus on mental health for many years. There are over 20 separate prevention programs in place across the district. For nearly a decade, Safe 2 Tell, the anonymous reporting system developed here in Colorado, has been in place districtwide.

Every day we take additional steps forward in improving the quality of life for everyone in our school community. We've communicated directly with you. We've celebrated the continued success of our students and staff districtwide. We continue to care for our LPS family. I am proud of the honor and integrity that all of you have brought to the process. Thank you for your continued support.

We are moving forward. We continue to learn from our past. Together, we are creating a brighter future.

Respectfully,

Scott Murphy
Superintendent