



May 25, 2022

Today, our entire country grieves for the painful loss of life. This horrific and unconscionable act will forever change the students, staff, families and community of Uvalde, the State of Texas, Mid-Michigan, and our country as a whole. We are tired of the horrible violence in our schools and the lack of focus on mental health. We need change.

As school districts, it is absolutely our top priority to keep our children and staff safe. Every parent should feel safe to drop their child off at school and know that when they pick them up all they will hear are the wonderful stories about the things they learned and the friends they have made. Our routines have been completely disrupted during the pandemic and our children need structure and built-in supports now more than ever. Schools should be a safe place where children flourish.

The pandemic has had significant impact on this country. We will never know all the circumstances of this tragedy. What we do know is we never want to see this happen again. Our children are the leaders of tomorrow and we must come together as a region, as a state, and as a country to make sure they have the future they deserve. We encourage everyone to speak up if you see someone struggling or if you hear of a potential act of violence against our schools. Please contact your school or OK-2-SAY at 1-855-565-2729.

We call on our legislature to provide more supports for mental health and take more action to minimize violence in our schools. Take away the stigma of mental health and support those who need it. School leaders are more than willing to sit at the table with legislators and be part of the solution. We encourage our community members to reach out to our legislators to ask for their support as well.

We need your help to keep our children, our staff, and our schools safe.

Resources for families and educators can be found on Ingham ISD's [website](#).

Jennifer Wonnell  
Dansville Schools

Ben Shuldiner  
Lansing School District

Brian Friddle  
Stockbridge Community Schools

Dori Leyko  
East Lansing Public Schools

Scott Powers  
Leslie Public Schools

Kelly Blake  
Waverly Community Schools

Steve Cook  
Haslett Public Schools

Ron Drzewicki  
Mason Public Schools

Andrew Smith  
Webberville Community Schools

David Hornak  
Holt Public Schools

John Hood  
Okemos Public Schools

Adam Spina  
Williamston Community Schools

Jason Mellema  
Ingham Intermediate School District