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DPSCD Staff, Families, and Students,

The Oxford shooting has saddened everyone and increased everyone's anxiety. As a school district, I know that we are collectively mourning, reflecting, and praying for the victims and the entire Oxford community. I personally have spent several moments in tears thinking about the students, staff, families, and community as they experienced the shooting and its aftermath.

Since serving as Superintendent of DPSCD, we have never received a legitimate and confirmed threat of a school shooting. However, we have always, and will always, treat any threat as serious and investigate the matter. Despite the tragedy of the recent school shooting there is a need to openly discuss it within our classrooms and homes. The incident is on all of our minds, including our students. We know some of our teachers have, and will, do this naturally. Others may need resources to facilitate the process. The same can be said of our families. To support you in these efforts, we have put together [resources for educators, students and families for discussing and processing school shootings](#) (please click on the link). We hope you find these materials helpful.

Please know that the district has an emergency and crisis management plan for schools that has been reviewed with principals and through their leadership with staff. We conduct three code red drills a year at each school. During the upcoming three online learning days in December, our security guards and public safety officers will be trained in an eight-hour active shooting protocol. We will also provide voluntary active shooting training to all staff members in January.

Beyond these existing and expanded strategies, we must all own the well-being of our students. This means actively talking to and connecting with them at home and school. Warning signs of student violence, even as horrific as a school shooter, exist. We must not ignore them but address them. This includes our students reporting to their families and schools that they are concerned about a fellow student's mental health. As a district, we have invested the limited funding we have and additional COVID Relief Funding in mental health support for our students, but everyone must take responsibility for our students' mental health and well-being.

Let's make a commitment to using this tragedy as an opportunity to pay closer attention to our students at school and at home!

Dr. Nikolai P. Vitti
Superintendent
Detroit Public Schools Community District

Students Rise. We all Rise

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