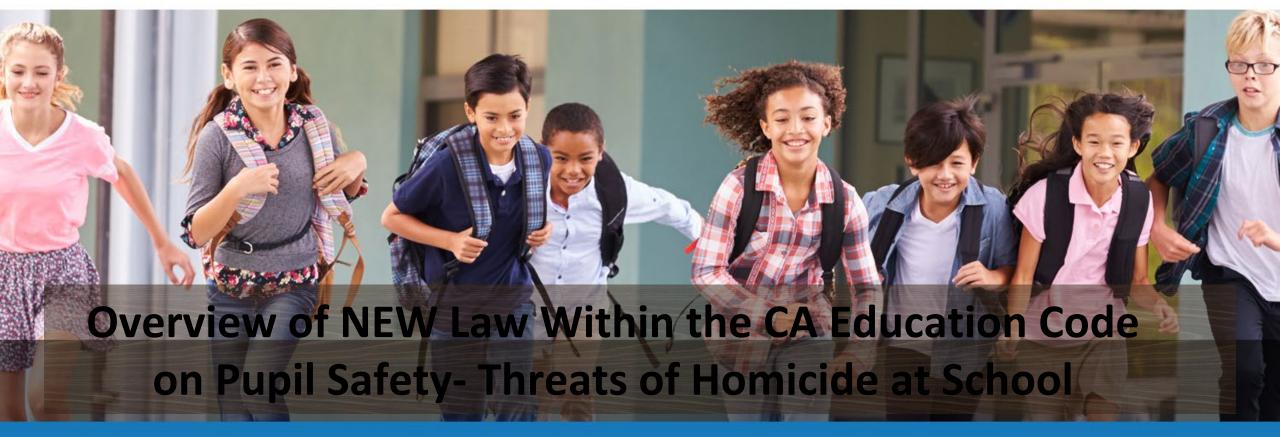




Ventura County Schools Self-Funding Authority

School Safety, Security and Targeted Threat Prevention Seminar Series









Welcome and Project Overview



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Introduction

Effective Jan. 1, 2023, SB906, New Sections of Comprehensive Safe Schools Plan (CSSP)

- CA Education Code, Article 8 (Threats of Homicide at School) to Chapter 8 (Pupil Safety) of Part 27 of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Elementary & Secondary Education Code relating to School Safety
- Two Section of the new law
 - Notification of Parents
 - Report of Threats









Key Definitions of New CSSP Sections

• Law Enforcement: Includes peace officers employed or contracted by a school, school district or local educational agency for school safety, police or security departments of local educational agencies and local law enforcement agencies.

• Local Educational Agency: Refers to school districts, county offices of education or charter schools serving grades 6-12.



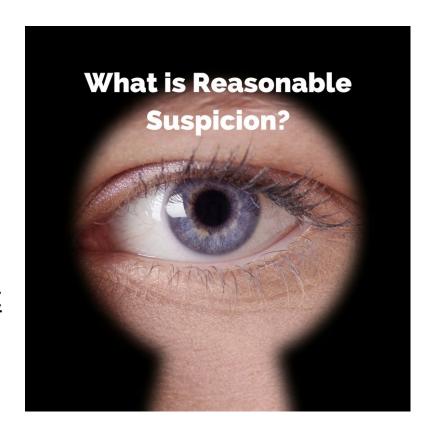






Definition of Reasonable Suspicion

- Reasonable Suspicion: Entails articulable facts and rational inferences warranting objective suspicion. Reasonable belief or perception that is based on observable facts and logical inferences. It is not a mere subjective feeling, but rather a conclusion drawn from concrete and tangible evidence that would lead a reasonable person to believe that certain circumstances or behaviors might indicate the presence of a potential threat or wrongdoing.
- This is the court definition of reasonable suspicion









Key Definitions of New CSSP Sections

- School Official: Pertains to employees of local educational agencies, school boards and governing bodies of charter schools interacting with pupils in grades 6-12.
- Threat or Perceived Threat: Encompasses any writing or action by a pupil creating reasonable suspicion of preparing a homicidal act related to school. This includes possession or use of firearms, ammunition and related materials, as well as writings









Key Provisions of CSSP – New Notification Sections 49391-49392

- The Department of Education is required to develop model content by July 1, 2023, to inform parents or guardians about child access prevention laws and safe firearm storage laws. Content must be updated annually.
- Local educational agencies must include information about safe firearms storage in their annual notifications to parents or guardians of pupils in grades K-12, informed by the model content developed by the Department of Education

Sample Firearms Safety Memorandum

To: Parents and Guardians of Students in the [Insert Name of School District]

From: [Insert Name of Superintendent]

Subject: California Law Regarding Safe Storage of Firearms

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform and to remind parents and legal guardians of all students in the [Insert Name of School District] of their responsibilities for keeping firearms out of the hands of children as required by California law. There have been many news reports of children bringing firearms to school. In many instances, the child obtained the firearm(s) from his or her home. These incidents can be easily prevented by storing firearms in a safe and secure manner, including keeping them locked up when not in use and storing them separately from ammunition.







Key Provisions of CSSP – New Threat Reporting Sections 49393-49394

- School officials must immediately report threats or perceived threats to law enforcement and provide evidence
- Upon notification, local law enforcement agencies or school-site police must conduct investigations and threat assessments of reported threats, including firearm registry reviews and searches if justified by reasonable suspicion.
- Local educational agencies and schools are immune from civil liability for damages related to requirements of this article.







- According to this section: Has the individual in writing or in actions created a reasonable suspicion that they are preparing to commit a homicidal act related to school or school activity?
 "Ed Code 49390-49393" Yes/No (Provide brief explanation and if yes, call 911)
- A school official who becomes aware of or witnesses such a threat must immediately report it to law enforcement. The report should include any relevant documents or evidence associated with the threat.







Behavioral Threat Assessment: Initial Screening

This document is for the immediate assessment of threat information for the purpose of identifying the need to notify Law Enforcement. Upon completion of this initial form notify Law Enforcement if necessary.

Complete a full behavioral threat assessment per LEA policy. Follow all policies and procedures including assessing suicidality in a student.

If there is a clear and present danger to anyone's physical safety, Call 911 immediately.

Do not wait to complete this form first.

Staff assessing – Name		_Date:	Time:
□ Contact Information			
Date threat was identified:			
Who is the person(s) of concern? – Student/	Staff/Community - Name:		
☐ Contact information (address, pl	none number)		
Contact information (address, plDOB: Gr	ade: SSID:		IEP/504: Yes / No
			_ ′
If the answer to any of the fol	owing four question	ıs is yes, call 911 i	mmediately.
Does the person of concern have acceptanation and if yes, call 911)	cess to potential victims to	carry out the threat?	Yes/No (Provide brief
Are weapons readily available to the and if yes, call 911)	person who made the th	reat? Yes / No (Provide	a brief explanation
Is the person of concern thinking of and if yes, call 911)	harming themselves or ot	hers?" Yes / No (Provid	le a brief explanation
Has the individual in writing or in act commit a homicidal act related to so a brief explanation and if yes, call 91	hool or a school activity?		
Please Circle: How was threat identified – We Tip, Student Email, Other Means:		ent Report, Social Med	ia, Phone Call to Site,
Who is/are the potential victim(s)? – Studen Contact information (name, add			
□ DOB: Gr	ade: SSID: _		IEP/504: Yes / No
Describe the concerning threat, communicat campus, or a bomb threat was reported to the			
Have there been prior incidents of concern v	vith this individual? If yes,	include the dates of pi	rior incidents:
Are there CPS related concerns – Harm to pe	rson of concern (physical	y, emotionally, sexuall	у)







- When multiple school officials share the obligation to report, they can jointly agree to designate one among them to make the report. If the designated official fails to do so, any of the officials with knowledge of this failure must then make the report.
- Law enforcement is required to maintain a record of all reports received in accordance with this section.







- Mandates immediate action by law enforcement and schools when notified of a threat or perceived threat as outlined in Section 49393. The summary is as follows:
 - Upon receiving notification as per section 49393, the relevant law enforcement agency or school-site police, supported by the local educational agency, must promptly initiate an investigation and assessment of the reported threat or perceived threat described in Section 4930(e)







- ***In addition to notifying law enforcement it is HIGHLY
 RECOMMENDED that the LEA's threat assessment team be notified via
 pre-established notification protocols.
 - If LE doesn't find that it reaches the level of "Preparation of a homicidal act" it DOES NOT mean that an individual is not a candidate to have a Behavorial Threat Assessment completed, there may be other areas for intervention.







- This also is at the bottom of the initial screening form, even after calling 911,
 we want to proceed with a threat assessment process
- The investigation and assessment required in point (a) should encompass a review of the Department of Justice's firearm registry.
- In addition, the investigation and assessment under point (a) should involve a search at the school premises, but only if there is a reasonable suspicion that the search would yield evidence related to the reported threat or perceived threat.







New Components of CSSP- Section 49395

 Establishes that a local educational agency, which includes school serving K-12, as well as individual schools within that agency, are protected from civil liability for any claimed damages that may arise from, be caused by or be connected to the obligations outlined in this specific article.







Questions and Discussion

- Take aways
- Any questions, discussions, or comments?











IN PERSON Active Assailant Training @ Ventura County School Districts

- Moorpark USD Aug. 21 970 staff (completed)
- Santa Paula USD Sept. 25 750 Staff
- Ventura County Office of Education Sept. 20 & Nov. 15 400 staff
- Oxnard SD Oct. 9 & 10 1700 staff







PREVAIL for SCHOOLS Video Training

- PREVAIL for SCHOOLS E-learning for all Ventura County Districts classified or certificated team members
 - E-learning course for Early Childhood & Elementary Schools
 - E-learning course for Middle/High Schools
- Vector/ Target Solutions Learning Management System







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Westlake High School Homicide April 18, 2023

Lessons Learned

Presented by:

SGT Damian Alvarez Ventura County Sheriff's Office School Resource Officer Supervisor

Principal Jason Branham Westlake High School Principal Conejo Valley Unified School District









Notifications

SGT Damian Alvarez perspective:

• On April 18, 2023, at approximately 3:35 hours, Ventura County Sheriff's Office Dispatch received several 911 calls of a traffic collision between a vehicle and several student pedestrians in the area of Thousand Oaks Blvd and Lakeview Canyon Road. At approximately 3:38 P.M. hours, Thousand Oaks Patrol Deputies were dispatched via the radio.

A terrifying rampage ends with a teen's death at Westlake High School



y Welling, with son Cody and daughter Hannah, visit a sidewalk memorial for 15-year-old sley Welling outside Westlake High School on Wednesday. (Myung J. Chun / Los Angeles

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ, GRACE TOOHEY APRIL 19, 2023 UPDATED 8:02 PM PT

SURSCRIBERS ARE READING

MOVIES

FOR SUBSCRIBER

Netflix has Oscar hopes for its Diana Nyad biopic. But swimmer's exaggerations cast a pall

CALIFORNIA

Erika Girardi, Secret Service and American Express engaged in corrupt

BUSINESS

OR SUBSCRIBERS

Americans face an epidemic of loneliness. For some, supermarket self-checkouts make it worse

MOVIES

We take an exclusive tour of Hollywood's restored Egyptian Theatre, opening this fall

CALIFORNIA

The weird and wonderful life of L.A.'s most bizarre celebrity photographer

ENTERTAINMENT & ARTS

What to know about SoFi Stadium before Beyoncé's Renaissance concert

LIFESTY

'Despair solves nothing': How pilots in tiny planes are saving dogs from death

ADVERTISEMEN









Notifications

Principal Jason Branham's perspective

Sergeant Damian Alvarez' perspective







Building Trust

- The crime scene location and subsequent investigation were handled fairly smoothly amidst the initial chaos and confusion. Why?
- It was established in a process years ago which brought the Police Department, through the School Resource Officer (SRO) Unit, and CVUSD to the table to establish common goals.
- There was a commitment with both entities to the importance, value, and trustworthiness of their relationship with each other.
- The relationship bonds that formed over time led to the establishment of TRUST.
- TRUST was a key component it the smoother handling of the tragedy.







Building Trust

How did we establish TRUST?

- CVUSD: Engaged in Conversation.
- Introduction when "changing of the guards."
- What to learn? The role of the SRO.
- Openness to change.
- **TOPD / VCSD:** Collaboration to accomplish common goals.
- Openness to change.
- Where does SRO fit in to the school needs?







The Scene

- SGT Alvarez's needs...
- Principal Jason Branham's needs...
- Scene secured and maintained in about 25 minutes.
- Investigators, SROs, School District., all maintained same messaging. Everything went through Sheriff's Public Information Officer with school collaboration.
- Point persons of communication were SRO supervisor and school administration staff to relay information up / down the chain of command for both entities.









Leading Practices

How did the cooperation go so smoothly and seamless?

- CHECK YOUR EGO!!
- Understand School District's expectations.
- Understand Law Enforcement's expectations.
- Collaboration in training.
- Open lines of communication School to SRO.
- Picking the correct SRO.
- SRO / School sitting on different committees.
- Being a presence and conducting the same thing at feeder schools.











The Aftermath (cont.)

- Continued line of open communication on both sides to mitigate the effects of the aftermath.
- Continuity of care from both sides.

Mother shares last words to teen son who died in Thousand Oaks crash near Westlake High School

"I said, 'I'm proud of you. I love you. Have a good day ...,'" said the mother of Wesley Welling.

'Everybody loved him': Teen struck by vehicle near Westlake High was waiting for bus with sister







SGT Damian Alvarez

Principal Jason Branham

Thank You!









Breakout Discussion

- What are some of the processes in place currently to protect students coming to and from school property?
- How can they be improved?
- Any take aways?







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Debrief #2

Location: Santa Paula High School

Type of Incident: Student with a firearm

on campus

Date: Friday, March 24, 2023

Presenters:

Commander Eric Starna Santa Paula Police Department

Dr. Elizabeth Garcia Santa Paula Unified School District

BREAKING NEWS ALERTS

Ventura County

FOLLOWFOLLOW "VENTURA COUNTY" TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS ABOUT NEW PAGES OF "VENTURA COUNTY". 19 Followers

Santa Paula High School student arrested for possessing a handgun on campus



MGN

By Lily Dallow

FOLLOWFOLLOW "" TO RECEIVE NOTIFICATIONS ABOUT NEW PAGES ON "".

Published March 27, 2023 12:46 pm







Summary

A 16-year-old student was arrested at Santa Paula High School in Ventura County, California, for possessing a handgun on campus. The incident was initiated by a school resource officer (SRO) who followed up on a social media post suggesting the student might have a firearm. Although no specific threats were mentioned, the SRO collaborated with school administration, security staff, and additional officers to locate and remove the student from the classroom. During a search of the student's backpack, a handgun, ammunition, and a magazine were found. No other weapons or ammunition were discovered in the student's possession or locker. The Santa Paula Unified School District promptly informed the student's parents of the arrest. Along with the legal consequences, the student will also undergo an administrative review.







Key Events:

1. Social Media Post:

• SRO follows up on a social media post indicating a student might possess a firearm on campus.

2. Investigation Initiation:

• SRO collaborates with school administration, security staff, and additional officers to investigate the situation.

3. Student Removal:

• SRO identifies the student and works with others to locate and remove him from the classroom.

4. Backpack Search:

- Responding officers search the student's backpack.
- Discovery: Handgun, ammunition, and ammunition magazine.

5. No Further Weapons:

• No other weapons or ammunition found on the student or in his locker.









Response Planning

- SRO plans to locate the student on campus.
- Urgency to check due to potential threat.
- SRO informs patrol watch commander, school administrators, and security staff.
- Swiftly devises a plan before next class break.







Collaborative Execution

- SRO, patrol officers, administrators, and security staff involved.
- Approach: Student calmly asked to step out of class.
- Observations by police officers outside classroom.
- Student complies, agrees to backpack search.











Firearm Discovery

- Loaded handgun found in student's backpack.
- Swift action prevents potential threat.







Actions Taken: The Police Lens



- Student Arrest:
 - Placed into Juvenile Justice Center following the arrest.
- Parent Notification:
 - Santa Paula Unified School District informs parents shortly after the arrest.
- Administrative Review:
 - Student faces an administrative review in addition to legal proceedings.









SANTA PAULA POLICE DEPARTMENT

214 S. 10th Street, Santa Paula, CA 93060

PRESS RELEASE

DON AGUILAR Interim Chief of Police

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 27, 2023

Student Arrested for Possession of a Handgun

Santa Paula, Calif. – A 16-year-old student was arrested on campus of Santa Paula High School on March 24, 2023, for possession of a handgun and was placed into the Juvenile Justice Center.

On Friday, March 24, 2023, a school resource officer (SRO) followed up on information discovered on social media regarding a student possibly in possession of a firearm. Although there was no information or statements of a threat, the SRO used an abundance of caution. Through investigation, the SRO was able to identify the student and worked with school administration, security staff, and additional police officers to swiftly locate the student and removed him from the classroom. After the student and backpack were removed from the classroom, the police officers conducted a search of his backpack.

A handgun, ammunition, and an ammunition magazine were located in the student's backpack. No other weapons or ammunition were found on his person or in his locker. A message was sent to parents through the Santa Paula Unified School District shortly after the student was arrested and removed from the campus. In addition to the arrest, the student also faces an administrative review.

This serious matter is a reminder for parents and/or guardians to monitor the contents of backpacks and other items brought on campus. Please regularly monitor/evaluate student's use of social media, cell phones, and computers/laptops. Remind students if they see something, say something to parents/guardians, teachers, school staff, or SRO's.

If anyone has information regarding weapons on school campuses, please notify the Santa Paula Police Department immediately by dialing 911.

Tips can be reported anonymously to WeTip by calling (800) 782-7463 or visiting:

https://mobile.catapultems.com/santa-paula-usd/Sites

Community Reminders:

- Parental Monitoring:
 - Encourage parents/guardians to regularly check students' backpacks and belongings.
- Online Supervision:
 - Emphasize monitoring of social media, cell phone usage, and computers/laptops.
- Reporting Suspicious Activity:
 - Urge students to report concerns to parents, teachers, school staff, or SROs.
 - Prompt reporting of information regarding weapons on campus.







Emergency Preparedness/Planning

- Emergency text thread in place.
- Contingency plan in case the situation escalated.
- Assess the safety threat and relevance based on firsthand facts observed and gathered by the SRO.
- Strategize a plan to support campus safety and work together with admin and security staff
- SRO, patrol officers, administrators, and Security staff agree to the plan and then move swiftly to carry the plan out.
- Consider the impacts of the type of approach in contacting a student (safety and limited disruption)







Lessons Learned/Summary from Police

- Swift action and collaboration ensured safety.
- Emergency text thread
- What was plan if it went bad
- Importance of monitoring student activities and belongings by parents.
- Encouragement to report suspicious activities.
- Follow up meeting with teachers and staff to debrief the incident and answer questions and plan or adopt ideas and protocols for handling similar types of events in the future.
- Follow up communication by school administration with their staff of what the plan was and how it was carried out (broad synopsis).







Timeline of Events: From the School Lens

Dr. Garcia

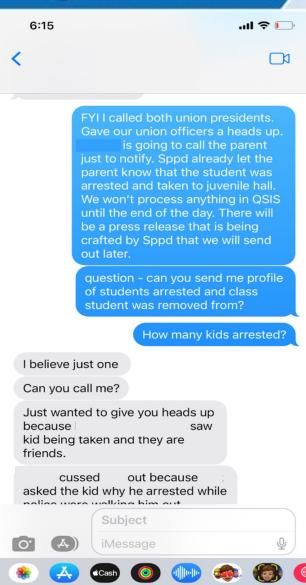
- SRO Morales spots social media image with guns.
- Safety check initiated for the student.
- Involvement of site administration and SPPD officers.
- Assistant Principal notifies Superintendent and Principal.
- Clarification: No direct threats made.











Timeline of Events (contd.):

- SRO Morales coordinates with Campus Security Officer (CSO).
- Entry into the classroom to retrieve the student by CSO.
- Involvement of senior security officer.
- Student taken into custody within minutes.









Communication Efforts:

- Dr. Garcia's phone calls to Superintendent and Interim Chief Aguilar.
- Communication with district officials.
- Coordination with Principal's Secretary for ParentSquare messages.
- Statement via mass communication system.
- Assistant Principal recuses herself.









Additional Communication:

- Dr. Garcia's interactions with union officers and staff.
- Delay in press release.
- Communication with Superintendent over the weekend.
- Maintained communication with involved staff to monitor their well-being.
- Emergency voluntary staff meeting on Monday to address the situation.







Lessons Learned:

- Quick action led to the student's immediate apprehension.
- Urgent need for immediate communication.
- Balancing the investigation's sensitivity with the need for information sharing.
- Questions regarding use of CSO to retrieve student. CSO shared concerns after they learned the student was possibly armed with a firearm.







Lessons Learned (contd.):

- Individualized communication for directly affected staff.
- Concerns raised by unions and security officers.
- The importance of a clear communication flow and defined roles.







Lessons Learned (contd.):

- Utilizing the experience of a principal in emergency management.
- Preparedness of district and site administrators.
- Emphasizing the utilization of safety plans and protocols.







Communication and Follow-up

School administration communicates plan and execution to staff.

• Press release explaining incident and promoting firearm safety.

• Reminders for parents, guardians, and students in press release.







Breakout Discussion

- What peer groups (staff, police, parents, students, etc.,) must be communicated to and when?
- What is your process in conjunction with police and/or security, if available, to respond to a reported gun on campus?
- Any take aways?



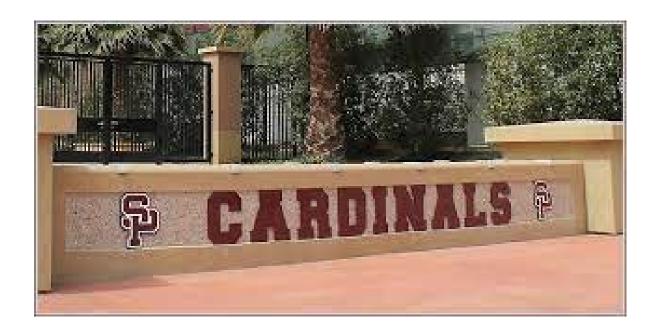




Commander Eric Starna

Dr. Elizabeth Garcia

Thank You!









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Debrief #3

Parent with Loaded Handgun at High School Graduation

Location: High School, Ventura County, CA

Type of Incident: Parent arrested with a firearm at graduation ceremony

Date: 2022-2023 School year

Presenter:

Mark Warren











Incident Overview: Loaded Firearm Incident

• High school graduation ceremony at campus football stadium.

• Security plan developed, agreed upon by teachers, staff, security, and SRO.

• Single entrance point with security measures and metal detectors.







Screening Process: Ensuring Safety

 Attendees subject to purse and bag checks for weapons.

 Refusal to comply led to entry denial.

• Incident involving a mother of a graduate unfolded.









Noteworthy Incident: Mother's Purse

 Mother hesitated to surrender purse during screening.

Suspicion raised about purse contents.

 Commotion as mother resisted purse/bag check.









Security Intervention: Swift Response

- Security personnel engaged in a brief struggle.
- Purse secured and contents examined.
- Discovery: Loaded handgun inside the purse.









Immediate Action Taken

- SRO and police officers alerted, arrived promptly.
- Detainment of the mother.

 Arrest for possessing a firearm on school grounds.









Importance of Thorough Security Measures

• Reinforces significance of stringent security protocols.

• Highlights need for vigilance even during celebratory events.

• Ensures safety of all attendees and prevents potential threats.







Breakout Discussion

- What are your current processes to collect information, such as potential threats to your school, from students, staff and parents?
- How can these be processes be improved to increase the reporting of information in a timely manner?
- Any take aways?







Share Out

- One or two "Aha" moments from today?
- Area(s) with which you would like more support?







Save the Date

- Seminar 2 October 25th: Communications, Lessons Learned
- Seminar 3 November 29th : Mass Events, Lessons Learned

