



May 24, 2022

Dear Everett Public Schools' staff:

There are no words to adequately express the sorrow we feel for the victims of today's tragic mass shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Every family should be able to send their child to school and expect them to come home. Our hearts are broken and our thoughts are with the community at this unimaginable time.

As school district staff, this is difficult to process, as you serve children of all ages each and every day. Our educators must get up tomorrow and try to explain the inexplicable to their students. As our students learn of this event, it is important to know it may cause them to question their own safety in our schools. While we cannot give our students a guarantee that nothing bad will ever happen to them, we can reassure them that the adults around them will do everything in their power to keep them safe.

The resources below were shared in a letter to families this evening (attached for your information) and we also encourage staff to visit them to help talk with students about this tragic event. Additional resources will be sent to principals later this evening to also help provide guidance to prepare for school tomorrow.

Resources:

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) – *National Association of School Psychologists*

[Talking to Kids About Fear and Violence](#) – *Mental Health America*

[How to Talk to Kids About Tragedies in the Media](#) – *Child Development Institute*

We will continue to support students by providing them with accurate information, opportunities for extra support if needed, and to keep our routines as normal as possible to help students feel secure. We don't always know how students will be affected in a crisis, so please reach out to the school counseling staff if you know a student who needs additional support.

Sometimes the only good we can find in such a tragedy is how it reminds us to hug our loved ones tighter and appreciate what we have. It also strengthens our resolve and sense of urgency around providing mental health supports for students.

Please take good care of yourselves. Stay safe and be well,

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman