



Good afternoon ELPS staff, families, students and community,

Thank you for your support and patience today as we worked with the East Lansing Police Department (ELPD) through an investigation of a perceived threat to East Lansing High School (ELHS).

Early this morning, ELHS administrators received an email from an anonymous sender of a student who threatened to shoot up the school today. We immediately communicated with ELPD and, in the best interest of student safety, decided to close ELHS while we conducted the investigation. The threat was specific to the high school, so we elected to keep the rest of our district buildings open.

Through assistance from the FBI, we were able to determine that the email came from an address in North Carolina. Through additional social media exploration and further communication this afternoon with the anonymous sender of the email, we determined and have confirmed that the email communication was intended for a high school in North Carolina with the acronym ELHS and not East Lansing High School.

We erred on the side of caution this morning and responded to the information we had available at the time. As the day progressed, we deemed that the email communication was not intended for our administrators and that no threat had been made to East Lansing High School. We've also been in communication with law enforcement and the school district administrators in North Carolina to confirm that they were indeed dealing with a school threat.

Please help us communicate with your children that there was no threat to East Lansing High School at any time. We will always make decisions that put their safety first.

The following two links have been shared in the past, but I want to make them available to families once again. The Mental Health Advisory Committee recommends two resources that provide guidance for parents and teachers when talking with children about violence and what they may see reported through the media. The National Association of School Psychologists and the American Psychological Association provide prescriptive guidance along with additional resources. The links to both articles are listed below.

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/talking-to-children.aspx>

We will have counselors and social workers on hand tomorrow for any students who may need support. We'll be welcoming students back to school tomorrow and will continue with scheduled homecoming events as planned.

Please reach out to building administrators if you or your student need assistance.

Thank you and have a nice evening.

Dori Leyko, Superintendent
East Lansing Public Schools