



February 2018

Dear CPS Families:

Our country, once again, has been shaken by a devastating school shooting. We join our nation in mourning the lives lost in Florida, and our thoughts and prayers are with the students and families who were impacted.

As we work to understand how such violence can find its way into schools, I want to assure parents about the steps we are taking to keep students in our district safe.

While no one can predict such a tragedy, we can make sure that we are fully prepared if such violence reaches our doorsteps. At the beginning of this school year, I launched a Safety Task Force that brings together experts from the Police Department, Fire Department, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security to develop strategies to ensure that our students are safe each and every day.

We have had a comprehensive safety plan in place for several years. Our safety plan includes School Resource Officers, background checks for visitors upon entry, controlled access to facilities, extensive emergency training of students and staff, frequent drills to practice safety measures, regular security audits, bag checks, and closed circuit monitoring through more than 4,000 digital cameras in our schools. Our new Safety Task Force is helping us to enhance our safety plan – using insights gained from the violent situations that have unfolded across our country in recent years.

I have a child in Cincinnati Public Schools, so I truly understand the concerns parents have when tragedies strike. Know that it is my priority to ensure that your children come home to you safe and healthy every day. Please keep the lines of communication with your children open, and encourage them to alert you and school staff if they see something they know is not right.

By working together, we can prevent these tragedies in our schools. Remember, in this district, your children come first. Thank you for entrusting them to our care.

Sincerely,

Laura Mitchell
Superintendent