



**Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.**  
Chief Operating Officer

May 25, 2022

Dear Students and Families of Eastern Suffolk BOCES,

We woke up this morning to the more complete and devastating news of Tuesday's mass shooting at Robb Elementary in Texas. As a parent and educator, it is incomprehensible that a tragedy of this magnitude has happened once again. Eastern Suffolk BOCES joins a mourning nation in its support of those in Uvalde.

Suffolk County school districts have a strong partnership with the Suffolk County Police Department. While there have been no threats made to schools on Long Island, there was and will continue to be an enhanced police presence at schools in the coming days. This ongoing partnership, in concert with our own security staff is important; their presence is a benefit to us all.

This morning the ESBOCES Agency Security Committee convened to review our safety and security protocols, and practices, as well as to discuss and plan for what other steps we can take moving forward. Over the past several years, ESBOCES has implemented a number of security protocols in an effort to provide a safe environment for our students and staff. These include, but are not limited to:

- Increased coordination of security staffing and patrols
- Regular collaboration with the local and county law enforcement agencies
- Increased surveillance using updated cameras/equipment
- Regular lock down/lock out drills
- Swipe locks/Buzzer Entry
- Visitor Screening Protocols
- Raised awareness/training for faculty and staff members
- Mental health screening protocols for individuals deemed "at-risk"

The safety and security of each of our students and staff has been and will continue to be our top priority.

In the days ahead we will be sharing additional resources with our faculty and staff, as we know that many – especially our younger students – may have a difficult time processing what has happened as they see media reports or hear about the tragedy. We will continue to support our students, taking time to listen and offering the social and emotional care that they need at this time. If you have a specific concern for your child, please contact your child's school.



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The partnership between our administration, faculty, staff, and you, our parents and community members, is vital. Times like these may make us feel like there are no words. In fact, there are words. There are many. But for now, we will start with words of support, compassion, and kindness. They are needed as we look out for the well-being of our students and of one another. Thank you for the partnership and trust you extend to us in caring for your children.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Julie Davis Lutz". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Julie Davis Lutz, Ph.D.  
Chief Operating Officer

JDL/km