



MARSHALL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

TRENT LOVETT
SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our most important function in Marshall County Schools is to provide the safest learning environment possible for all of our students and school staff members.

Unfortunately, however, Kentucky's P-12 schools have been experiencing a continual rash of terroristic threats from students with intent to do harm to either other students or school staff members. Plainly stated, these are threats being made to shoot people or detonate bombs with the intent to kill people. In fact, between January 23 and April 30th of last school year (2018), Kentucky schools experienced 294 terroristic threats, totally disrupting the school day and causing widespread fear throughout the school's community. In many of those cases, school officials and law enforcement officials were forced to close schools to investigate the threats that had been made. In other cases, school attendance plummeted for days after the threat was made. Many school leaders have said that the adverse impact of these acts is incalculable.

Clearly, such threats to our students and school staff are totally unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Therefore, the intention of this letter is to notify all of our parents and guardians that school district officials (in coordination with responding law enforcement agencies) will **pursue immediate legal charges for terroristic threatening in the second degree (which is a felony), to the absolute fullest extent of the law, against anyone who makes such threats, including students.** Moreover, we will ask that the prosecution of these individuals be swift and their punishment, severe.

Because of our rigid and far-reaching stance on this crime, I implore you to make it a point to discuss this critically important matter with your child as soon as possible. Make him/her fully aware of its severity. School and law enforcement officials are determined to put a halt to these willful acts of terrorism being made toward our schools. Please do your part to ensure that your child never becomes a party to such an offense by educating him/her on the seriousness of its consequences.

Together we can prevent this unnecessary, dangerous, and disruptive crime from victimizing our schools and make each learning environment safer for our students to develop and grow each day.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Trent Lovett'.

Trent Lovett, Superintendent

PLEASE CAREFULLY REVIEW DETAILS OF KRS 508.078 ON FOLLOWING PAGE

Definitions of Terroristic Threatening:

508.078 Terroristic threatening in the second degree.

(1) A person is guilty of terroristic threatening in the second degree when, other than as provided in KRS 508.075, he or she intentionally:

(a) With respect to any scheduled, publicly advertised event open to the public, any place of worship, or any school function, threatens to commit any act likely to result in death or serious physical injury to any person at a scheduled, publicly advertised event open to the public, any person at a place of worship, or any student group, teacher, volunteer worker, or employee of a public or private elementary or secondary school, vocational school, or institution of postsecondary education, or to any other person reasonably expected to lawfully be on school property or at a school-sanctioned activity, if the threat is related to their employment by a school, or work or attendance at school, or a school function. A threat directed at a person or persons at a scheduled, publicly advertised event open to the public, place of worship, or school does not need to identify a specific person or persons or school in order for a violation of this section to occur;

(b) Makes false statements by any means, including by electronic communication, for the purpose of:

1. Causing evacuation of a school building, school property, or school-sanctioned activity;
2. Causing cancellation of school classes or school-sanctioned activity; or
3. Creating fear of serious bodily harm among students, parents, or school personnel;

(c) Makes false statements that he or she has placed a weapon of mass destruction at any location other than one specified in KRS 508.075; or

(d) Without lawful authority places a counterfeit weapon of mass destruction at any location other than one specified in KRS 508.075.

(2) A counterfeit weapon of mass destruction is placed with lawful authority if it is placed as part of an official training exercise by a public servant, as defined in KRS 522.010.

(3) A person is not guilty of commission of an offense under this section if he or she, innocently and believing the information to be true, communicates a threat made by another person to school personnel, a peace officer, a law enforcement agency, a public agency involved in emergency response, or a public safety answering point and identifies the person from whom the threat was communicated, if known.

(4) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, terroristic threatening in the second degree is a Class D felony.

(5) Terroristic threatening in the second degree is a Class C felony when, in addition to violating subsection (1) of this section, the person intentionally engages in substantial conduct required to prepare for or carry out the threatened act, including but not limited to gathering weapons, ammunition, body armor, vehicles, or materials required to manufacture a weapon of mass destruction.

PLEASE CONTACT YOUR CHILD'S PRINCIPAL IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.