



February 14, 2023

Dear Students, Parents, Staff and Community Members,

Today, we share our deepest sympathy and support for the students, staff and families of the Michigan State University community. We cannot begin to imagine the pain MSU and the surrounding community feels today following the active-shooter situation reported last night. Our hearts are heavy with the weight of such a loss and our thoughts are with those left injured and affected by this tragedy.

While it is unknown what prompted the shooting, and not for us to speculate, we do wish to send our families and community members a reminder that there are ways to seek help if you are experiencing distress. Across our state, schools participate in the [OK2Say program](#). Additionally, there are [mental health resources](#) designed to support a variety of challenges experienced by people of all ages. We encourage our students, families and community to use these resources when needed.

For families seeking a way to talk with their children about yesterday's events, you may find the [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\) website](#) to be a helpful starting point. Non-specific safety conversations may be more appropriate for younger students and may begin with presentations such as these found on the Johns Hopkins site for [K-2 grade and 3-5 grade safety in schools](#).

Our thoughts and support are with the Mid-Michigan and Spartan communities today and throughout their recovery.

Sincerely,

The Superintendents of Gratiot and Isabella County Public Schools:

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| Paul Hungerford, Gratiot-Isabella RESD | Terry Starr, Shepherd Public Schools |
| Stacey Criner, Alma Public Schools | Jennifer McKittrick, St. Louis Public Schools |
| Traci Gavenda, Ashley Community Schools | William Chillman, Beal City Public Schools |
| Jennifer Verleger, Mt. Pleasant Public Schools | Wade Slavik, Breckenridge Community Schools |
| Thomas Torok, Fulton Schools | Steve Netzley, Ithaca Public Schools |
| Lisa Bergman, Renaissance Public School Academy | |

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