



September 16, 2024

JOINT COMMUNICATION RELEASE: Manteca PD, Lathrop PD, Stockton Unified PD, Stockton PD, and Manteca Unified School District

PARENTS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES OF MANTECA UNIFIED :

POLICE DEPARTMENT INVESTIGATES SCHOOL SHOOTING RUMORS

Police Departments will continue to investigate rumors circulating on social media about potential threats to Manteca Unified schools. The recent rumors, which began surfacing late last week, have caused significant concern within our communities. In alignment with our safety plans and partnerships, we have been working closely to assess the credibility of these threats with added support from the Central California Intelligence Center.

School Resource Officers are on campus monitoring activity with a heightened police presence when necessary to ensure student and staff safety.

LAW ENFORCEMENT FINDINGS AND REQUEST FOR VIGILANCE

We have not found any evidence supporting the legitimacy of threatening social media posts directed to any Manteca USD school, and we will continue to investigate any developing leads or new reports.

However, we want to share an important update with you. This morning, a 16-year-old student from Lincoln Unified was apprehended by the Stockton Police Department after making some of the recent threatening posts on social media. Stockton police discovered during their investigation that the student's threats were unsubstantiated.

These false school shooting threats are part of an ongoing, national issue of "social media swatting," which involves making threats to cause widespread panic. In some instances, students have intentionally spread these messages in hopes of causing disruptions or school closures. This is where we need your help.

We urge parents to speak with their children about the seriousness of posting or reposting threats online with a simple message: Think before you post. Even reposting a threatening message impacts the efficiency of police investigations. Parents and students should be aware that making threats can lead to serious disciplinary action, including potential legal consequences.

As always, if parents or students see or hear of any safety threats to schools, **they should call their local law enforcement agency.** This will allow schools and police to respond more swiftly to safety concerns.

The safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority, and we are committed to working together with our community to ensure everyone's well-being. By keeping our communication lines open and acting responsibly, we can work together to protect our community and keep our schools safe.



IMPORTANT SCHOOL SAFETY TERMS TO KNOW

Manteca Unified and its schools have emergency plans with safety protocols for different situations. If an incident happens, families might get updates by phone, email, or text. These messages will use specific safety terms, so it's important to understand them. We recommend reviewing these terms regularly and discussing them with your children, students, or family.

Shelter-in-Place means all students and staff must remain in or return to their classrooms and offices, all doors, windows, and vents are closed and secured, HVAC (air and heating) units are shut down to keep outside air out, and air scrubber units are turned on. This action is taken when students and staff need to be isolated from the outdoor environment for protection against external airborne contaminants. *For example, a Shelter-in-Place may be ordered if smoke particles in the air have reached an unsafe level.*

Secure Campus means all classrooms and office doors are closed and locked, and all students and staff remain inside until otherwise directed. Instruction continues in the classroom, but no one is allowed to enter or exit the campus. This precautionary action is caused by a potential threat on or near campus. A secure campus allows a school to quickly transition to a lockdown if it becomes necessary. *For example, law enforcement officers are searching for a suspect in a nearby neighborhood.*

Lockdown means all classrooms, offices, and school facility doors are closed and locked, windows are covered, lights are turned off, and doors may be barricaded from the inside depending on the specific threat. All normal school operations, including instruction, stop, and no one is allowed to enter or exit the campus. This action is caused by a confirmed and immediate threat on or near campus. *For example, an individual with a weapon is seen in front of the school.*

Evacuation means students and staff are moved from school buildings to a pre-determined safe location. This action is taken when conditions outside the building or off-site are safer than inside or on-site. *For example, an evacuation may be carried out if there is a fire on campus.*

If there was ever an imminent threat to your child, District leaders, law enforcement, and emergency response professionals would take immediate and necessary precautions or responses. We will make every effort to communicate information appropriately to retain trustful partnerships while not compromising the efficiency of emergency response on campus.

We thank you for your vigilance and cooperation.

For any questions, concerns, or to report potential threats, please contact:

Manteca Police Department at (209) 456-8100; Lathrop Police Department (209) 249-1800; Stockton Unified Police Department at (209)-933-7085; Stockton Police Department at (209) 937-8377.

As a parent or staff member, if you'd like to be more involved, we encourage you to meet with your school's administration and safety team to learn more about how you can contribute to our safety efforts. For more information on safety in Manteca Unified, visit www.mantecausd.net/safety.
