

# Important Update Regarding Pennsylvania School Safety Notification Requirements

Dr. Anthony Serafini • 2 days ago • Saturday, Jan 10 at 11:05 AM • **Schuylkill Intermediate Unit**



January 10, 2026

Dear Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 (SIU 29) Families, Staff, and Community Members,

I am writing to share important information about a new Pennsylvania school safety law that has recently taken effect and how it will impact communication with families and employees.

Governor Josh Shapiro has signed **Act 44 of 2025**, a new section of the Pennsylvania School Code titled Parental and Employee Notification of Weapon Incidents. Beginning **January 6, 2026**, Intermediate Units and school districts are required to notify parents/guardians and employees when an incident occurs involving the possession of a weapon on school property, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity. For purposes of this notification requirement, a “weapon” is defined in accordance with SIU 29 Board Policy 218.1, which is available for review at [www.iu29.org/Act44](http://www.iu29.org/Act44).

The law requires notification based on where the incident occurs. For purposes of this requirement, the Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 campus includes the **SIU 29 Maple Avenue Campus**. **The Schuylkill Technology Center North and Schuylkill Technology Center South** are considered separate campuses. Families and employees will be notified when an incident occurs within the applicable campus, on IU-provided transportation, or during an IU-sponsored activity, in accordance with the law. If an incident occurs in a specific program or setting, notifications will be issued to the families and employees connected to that setting, as required.

Notification is not required when an incident is not directly related to the activity, program, or individuals involved. Unless circumstances require otherwise, SIU 29 must issue required notifications within 24 hours of the reported incident. SIU 29 will use its established communication systems to deliver these notices, similar to those used for emergency notifications, delays, or closures.

To comply with confidentiality requirements, notifications will not include personally identifiable student or staff information. Notices will include only limited details, such as the date and general location of the reported incident.

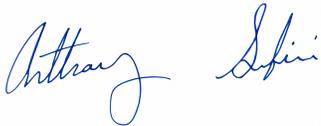
In the past, professional discretion was used when responding to certain situations based on the specific

circumstances involved. Act 44 may result in more frequent notifications, including situations that do not represent an active safety threat. An increase in notifications should not be interpreted as a decrease in safety; rather, it reflects a new legal requirement.

Families can help prevent accidental situations by checking backpacks, jackets, and bags, and reminding students that prohibited items are not permitted on school grounds, IU transportation, or at IU-sponsored activities. Safety concerns may also be reported through **Safe2Say Something** at **1-844-SAFE2SAY (1-844-723-2729)**.

Please be assured that Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29 will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners, threat assessment teams, and safety and security personnel. The safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priority. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping IU 29 programs and learning environments safe and supportive.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Anthony Serafini". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "S".

Dr. Anthony Serafini, Ed.D.  
Executive Director  
Schuylkill Intermediate Unit 29