



# PINE GROVE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Promoting Growth, Achievement, Success, and Direction for ALL Children!*



*Heath W. Renninger  
Superintendent*

Dear Pine Grove Area Families, Faculty, and Staff,

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

Governor Josh Shapiro 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, schools are now required to notify parents/guardians and school employees when an incident occurs involving the possession of a weapon on school property, on school transportation, or at a school-sponsored activity.

The law requires notification based on where the incident occurs. Because our buildings share a common campus, families and employees will be notified if an incident occurs in any building on the Pine Grove Area campus. If an incident occurs at a school-sponsored activity or on school transportation, the district will notify the appropriate families and employees connected to that setting. Notification is not required when the incident is not directly related to the activity or to the students or staff involved.

Unless circumstances require otherwise, the district must issue the notification within 24 hours. Pine Grove Area will use Finalsite services to deliver these required notices. This is the same system we use to communicate school cancellations, emergencies, and other important communications.

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

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

Families can help prevent accidental situations by checking backpacks, jackets, and sports bags and reminding students that prohibited items are not permitted on school grounds, buses, or at activities. Concerns can also be reported through Safe2Say Something at 1-844-723-2729.

Please know that Pine Grove Area will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners, threat assessment teams, and safety/security personnel. The well-being of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping Pine Grove Area safe and supportive for all students and staff.

Sincerely,

Heath W. Renninger  
Superintendent, Pine Grove Area School District