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January 13, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The Southmoreland School District is committed to open communication and transparency with our families. We are writing to inform you of a recent change in state law that affects how school districts are required to communicate with families regarding student and campus safety.

Under this updated law, schools must notify families whenever an item that is legally defined as a weapon is found on school grounds, regardless of intent or whether a threat was present.

We want to share several important points to provide clarity and context:

- This change reflects a new reporting requirement, not an increase in safety incidents within the Southmoreland School District.
- Families may receive more frequent safety notifications than in the past, as situations that previously did not require districtwide communication must now be reported.
- The legal definition of a “weapon” is broad and may include everyday items or tools that are not designed or intended to cause harm, depending on the circumstances.

We also want to remind families and community members that weapons are not permitted on school property at any time. This includes during after-school programs, athletic events, performances, and other extracurricular activities. State law prohibits weapons on school campuses, even for individuals who may otherwise be legally licensed or permitted to carry them.

Safety is a shared responsibility. We ask for the continued assistance and partnership of everyone in our learning community—students, families, staff, and visitors—by remaining vigilant, following district expectations, and communicating concerns promptly. Together, we help ensure our schools remain safe, welcoming, and supportive environments for all.

The Southmoreland School District remains fully committed to maintaining the well-being of our students and staff. We will continue to follow established safety protocols and collaborate closely with law enforcement and community partners as appropriate. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support.

Sincerely,.

Daniel A. Clara, Ed. D.