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*Inspired by Tradition,  
Educating for Tomorrow*

Elida Local Schools  
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March 6, 2026

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Earlier today shortly after the Elida High School day began, multiple law enforcement agencies arrived at the high school after receiving a report from a community member of a student displaying a weapon in their vehicle on the way to school. Upon identification of the alleged student, multiple investigative tactics were used by the district and law enforcement, including searches of persons, belongings, lockers, classrooms, video surveillance footage, vehicle, etc. No weapon was located and law enforcement has relieved the school of the lockdown. All students and staff are safe, and law enforcement continues to investigate. This situation was isolated to the high school only.

Thank you to the Allen County Sheriff's Department, American Township Police, and the Elida Village Police for their quick response and handling of the situation. As always, student and staff safety is of utmost concern. We will review the safety procedures that were used during this to see if any changes need to be made to our safety plans.

Again, thank you to law enforcement, and the staff and students for their cooperation and handling of the situation this morning.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joel Mengerink". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Joel Mengerink  
Superintendent