



Celebrating Safe Schools Week at IDEA

Safe Schools Week highlights the people, practices, and partnerships that help keep IDEA schools safe.

Dear IDEA Families,

October is an important month for school safety. From October 19th - 23rd, schools across the country will recognize America's Safe Schools Week, a time dedicated to strengthening the practices, partnerships, and everyday actions that help create safe and supportive learning environments for students.

At IDEA Public Schools, campuses may participate in special activities, student safety conversations, staff recognition, and family engagement throughout the week. While the activities may look different from campus to campus, they all reinforce one important message:

Safety is a shared responsibility.

Students, families, teachers, campus leaders, security personnel, first responders, and our Safety & Security team all play a role in creating safe schools.

And while Safe Schools Week lasts one week, our commitment to safety continues every day of the school year.

Safety in Action at IDEA

Here are just a few of the ways IDEA works throughout the school year to strengthen safety, preparedness, and response across our campuses.



SAFETY AT IDEA PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Texas Peace Officer At Every Campus

Each campus is supported by a Texas Peace Officer who helps provide a visible presence, supports safety operations, and responds when assistance is needed.



Dedicated Emergency Response Team

Our campus teams receive specialized training to prepare for and respond to emergencies, helping ensure the safety of our students and staff.



Required Monthly Safety Drills

Students and Staff participate in required safety drills throughout the school year so everyone knows what to do and where to go before an emergency happens.



Partnerships With First Responders

We work closely with local law enforcement, fire department, and emergency services to strengthen preparedness and response across our campuses.



October Safety Spotlight: Threats Are No Joke!

This October, IDEA is reinforcing the Texas School Safety Center's Threats Are No Joke! campaign.

Threatening comments, messages, social media posts, photos, videos, or "jokes" about violence can have a serious impact on a school community.

Even when someone says they were only joking, a threat can create fear, disrupt learning, require a school or law-enforcement response, and lead to serious school or legal consequences.

We want students to remember three important actions:



DON'T DO IT.

Never make a threat about hurting someone, bringing a weapon to school, or committing violence, even as a joke.



DON'T SHARE IT.

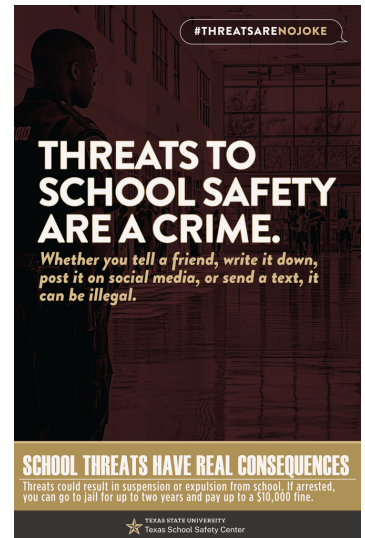
If you receive or see threatening or concerning content online, do not repost, forward, screenshot and share, or help spread it.



REPORT IT.

Save the information and tell a trusted adult. Students do not need to decide whether a threat is "real" before reporting it.

See something concerning? Report it and allow the appropriate adults to determine the next steps.



WATCH: THREATS ARE NO JOKE!

Take a few minutes to watch the Texas School Safety Center's Threats Are No Joke! video and learn why threats should always be taken seriously and reported.



WATCH NOW

PARENT GUIDE: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Even if it is a joke, and my child tells a friend, could they still have consequences?

A: Yes, even if it is just a joke, your child can still have consequences. If your child hears or sees something that sounds or looks like a threat, make sure they know to report it to an adult. You never know if it is really a joke.

Who should my child or I report a threat or concerning social media post to?

A: Tell a trusted adult, such as a teacher or school administrator. You can also submit a report through [iWatch Texas](#). If the threat is immediate or involves a weapon, contact local law enforcement or call 911.

Q: What is considered a threat? What are some examples?

A: Under Texas law, any threat of violence to a person or a place, with the intent to cause fear or serious bodily injury, cause police officers, firefighters, or EMS to respond, or if a threat prevents or interrupts the use of a building or room, like a school building, or school related event, can be considered a threat, which is a crime. A person also commits a crime if he or she knowingly communicates or circulates a report of a present, past, or future emergency that he or she knows is false. Some examples may include threatening a shooting on campus, threatening a bomb on campus, threatening a specific person, sharing a fake threat on social media, or reposting a threat.

If my child makes a threat at school, do they only have consequences at school?

A: No. IDEA takes all threats and concerning reports seriously. Depending on the circumstances, a threat may result in school disciplinary action and could also have legal consequences. When appropriate, we work closely with local law enforcement to ensure threats are properly assessed and addressed.

Q: If my child makes a threat from home, can they still have consequences at school?

A: Yes, if your child makes a threat from home against their school or another person, they could have severe consequences at school and with law enforcement.