



**OSWEGO**  
CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
*Fully prepared and life ready!*

## Education Center

One Buccaneer Boulevard, Oswego, New York 13126  
[www.oswego.org](http://www.oswego.org)

**Dr. Dean F. Goewey**  
Superintendent of Schools  
(315) 341-2001  
FAX: (315) 341-2910  
[dgoewey@oswego.org](mailto:dgoewey@oswego.org)

Dear Oswego County families,

Schools across the nation have seen an increase in threats and rumors of threats the last few weeks, which is sadly not uncommon following a national tragedy such as the recent shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida. Like you, we share in our nation's heartbreak, and we hope to open up a conversation to create change.

As superintendents from all nine Oswego County Schools and the District Superintendent from CiTi BOCES, we would like to send this message to students, parents and our community: we take all threats seriously, including those on social media, and they will not be tolerated. Anyone who makes a threat will be subject to school discipline and possible criminal charges following an investigation.

Schools are a place where children should have the right to learn without fearing for their safety. The responsibility falls on all of us – schools, parents, students, community members – to work together to secure our children's protection.

Each of our schools in Oswego County work closely with local authorities in taking every threat seriously. Once a threat is reported to a school staff member, the local police department is notified, and we immediately work together to conduct a thorough investigation. Throughout the course of the investigation, we may implement lockout procedures. We notify parents of such actions and provide additional information upon the conclusion of the investigation. Details of consequential actions cannot always be communicated under certain student privacy laws. As superintendents, we want you to know that the safety and well-being of our children is an extremely high priority, and we are asking for your help in keeping our schools safe. If you or your child see or hear anything that makes you feel nervous or frightened, speak up! If you ever have any doubt, contact law enforcement immediately.

In light of recent events and heightened awareness, we will be having more conversations about school safety and working diligently on our emergency operation plans already in place to make them even more robust.

You, our students and families, are key partners in this effort. Here is what you can do to help as a parent:

1. Take the time to talk with your children. Stress that making a threat is not to be taken lightly and there are severe consequences. Encourage your children to notify a school administrator or local authorities of a threat.

2. Continue to keep an open line of communication with your children. Talk about local and national incidents and help them process their feelings and concerns at an age-appropriate level.
3. Watch for changes in mood or behavior in your children and seek out resources and assistance in dealing with anxiety, anger, fear, bullying, etc.
4. Monitor your child's reading material, television, video games, music and internet browsing for appropriate content.
5. Secure any firearms or weapons you have in your home.
6. Please do not spread rumors on social media as this may cause needless panic, and also encourage responsible use of social media with your student(s). All reports of a threat will be turned over to the police department for investigating. There will be legal and school consequences even if a threat was made as a joke or hoax.
7. As hard as it may be, it is imperative to not come to the school building if a situation is occurring. Parents and families arriving at the same time may make an emergency situation worse by distracting emergency personnel from focusing on responding to the crisis at hand and securing the perimeter.

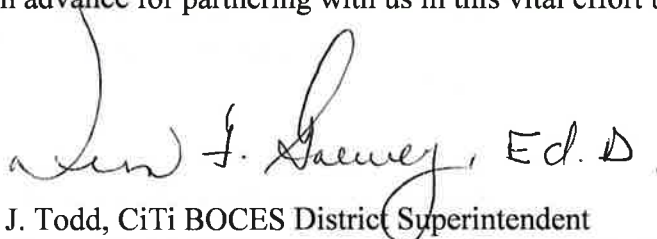
These are not easy times for any of us. But we hope that by working together, we can maintain and improve the positive learning environments for our children.

As we share in the social and emotional well-being of our community, we would like to share some online resources for families in supporting students below:

- The American Psychological Association - <http://www.apa.org/topics/violence/school-shooting.aspx>
- Stop Bullying - <https://www.stopbullying.gov/get-help-now/index.html>
- National Association of School Psychologists - <https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/talking-to-children-about-violence-tips-for-parents-and-teachers>

Thank you in advance for partnering with us in this vital effort to keep our students and schools safe.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Todd, Ed. D.

Christopher J. Todd, CiTi BOCES District Superintendent  
Eric Knuth, Altmar-Parish-Williamstown Central School District Superintendent  
Thomas J. Colabufo, Central Square Central School District Superintendent  
Brian Pulvino, Fulton City School District Superintendent  
Christopher Staats, Hannibal Central School District Superintendent  
Sean Bruno, Mexico Academy and Central School District Superintendent  
Dr. Dean Goewey, Oswego City School District Superintendent  
Dr. Brian Hartwell, Pulaski Academy and Central School District Superintendent  
Christopher Byrne, Phoenix Central School District Superintendent  
Kyle L. Faulkner, Sandy Creek Central School District Superintendent