

Supporting Students in the Midst of Viral Rumors and Fears about School Violence

Tips for Educators, Parents and Community

A few things for us all to remember:

- Even though school violence is extremely rare, it is easily magnified by rumors, social media and news coverage.
- Situations like these can be scary. It's okay to acknowledge this and ask questions. It's also important to grant each other extra patience and grace.
- Kids are often drawn to sensational topics but may not understand the gravity of jokes or how conversations may be perceived.
- Many kids have not yet learned how to verify information or sort out rumors from facts.

Pay attention if you hear kids talking about school violence.

Step in and ask some questions. Try to clarify the situation. Make sure to report any information about potential violence.

“Hey, can you tell me more about what you are discussing?”

“Are you being serious?” “Where did you hear that information?”

“Is this something you heard or witnessed firsthand?”

“Let's go talk to the Principal or School Counselor about this.”

Provide support when kids express fear about being safe at school.

Listen first. Acknowledge their feelings. Consider their age and developmental level. Share ways they can get accurate information.

“Remember that there are many people helping keep our schools safe.”

“Do you know what to do if you see or hear something scary?”

“Do you want to talk to a School Resource Officer or School Security Officer to learn more about school safety?”

“Do you remember the [safety protocols](#) we use in LPS?”



How to Report Concerns

It is always most helpful when students or community members make a **DIRECT REPORT** to the school or the [LPS 24-Hour Security Department](#) (303-347-3420). This allows for an opportunity to ask questions, gather more information and offer support. Anyone can also make an **ANONYMOUS TIP** through [Safe2Tell](#). This system may feel more comfortable but also limits our ability to follow up.