



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM NO. 2012-045

TO: School District Superintendents
School Principals

FROM: Cindy Hill, State Superintendent of Public Instruction

DATE: March 5, 2012

SUBJECT: Chardon, Ohio School Shooting

ESSENTIAL PREPARATION

The education community mourns the loss and injury of the students who were the victims of the school shooting at Chardon, Ohio. It is reported that prior school drills, general preparation, and willingness for staff to take action helped minimize the loss of life.

Please be reminded that W.S. 35-9-505 authorizes schools to substitute school safety drills for fire drills as long as fire drills are conducted no fewer than four times during one academic year. However, there is nothing that prevents a school from proactively staging additional school safety drills. We need to utilize opportunities to prepare our students for correct actions in a wide spectrum of emergencies.

W.S. 21-4-311 through W.S. 21-4-315 (Safe School Climate Act) specifically provides requirements to schools designed to lower incidents of bullying. I ask you to make sure you facilitate these measures with full fidelity to minimize the potentially catastrophic fallout of some bullying situations. Access to firearms, which Wyoming youths have, adds gravity to my concern.

To the highest extent possible, I ask you to be aware of potential hostile actions students are posting on social media, urge your staff and students to utilize the school safety tip line (1-800-78-CRIME) when they know of danger, conduct school safety drills to prepare for hostile actions, and have a system that keeps you in the loop regarding threats to student safety.

The bottom line is that we need to collectively be as prepared as possible, and remember that it can happen here.

Feel free to contact Bruce Hayes, School Safety Consultant, if you have any questions on the listed statutes, my sense of urgency, or available technical assistance, at bruce.hayes@wyo.gov or call 307-777-6198.

CH:bh