



February 15, 2018

In the wake of the horrific school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Broward County, Florida, yesterday, all of us at the Saint Louis Public School District want to extend our sympathies and support to the families and staff of the Broward County Public Schools.

It is unthinkable and unacceptable to ever have a shooting in a school, but unfortunately, it has become all too common. As educators, our mission is to prepare children for the future. Equally important is our responsibility to protect them from harm and danger. We must insist upon better overall solutions to keep our students safe.

In the coming days, we will be reviewing our safety and security practices to ensure all students and staff are aware of their building's security plans and are prepared for how to respond during this type of incident and any others that may occur. For the safety of the school communities, these plans are not public, but they are routinely reviewed and adjusted, as needed, by our school safety leadership team.

The emotional impact of incidents like what occurred yesterday can be far reaching—beyond the community, city or state. I encourage any student or staff member who is feeling the effects of this tragedy, or experiencing symptoms from any other trauma, to speak up and talk to someone. Please be open to sharing your feelings and, conversely, kind to one another and willing to listen.

District staff are also encouraged to call the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) at 800-622-7276 or visit www.liveandworkwell.com for crisis support, stress management tips and other services. Students may call (314-485-4635 or toll free 844-336-2435), chat (www.stlmhb.com) or text (2TALK to 31658) the St. Louis City Youth Connection Helpline.

Again, our hearts are with the Broward County Public Schools community, Superintendent Runcie and all students and staff impacted. We stand with them as they take steps toward the difficult process of healing.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kelvin R. Adams
Superintendent of Schools
Saint Louis Public Schools