



January 22, 2023

Interim Superintendent's Message: Supporting Our Community

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students and Community Members,

Our community is in shock and grief after a mass shooting Saturday night left 10 people dead and at least 10 more injured in Monterey Park.

The shooting took place near a Lunar New Year festival where many families gathered to enjoy the holiday festivities. This should have been a time of celebration but has become one of mourning. We know that many of our Santa Monica and Malibu families and staff have been celebrating this special event this weekend and that this tragedy in a nearby community is very upsetting.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the families and communities impacted by this horrific event, along with all of you who are affected by this incident. I know that we are all upset and unsettled by this senseless tragedy.

It is important to be aware that incidents of gun violence and loss can affect both children and adults. The Los Angeles County Office of Education has put together the following resources to provide educators and parents support in talking to students about gun violence, their safety and their feelings. There are also resources to support adults who are experiencing emotional distress.

Resources for Schools and Families

- [Talking to Children about the Shooting \(The National Child Traumatic Stress Network\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(National Association of School Psychologists\)](#)
- [Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting \(American Counseling Association\)](#)
- [Trauma and Disaster Mental Health \(American Counseling Association\)](#)
- [Managing your distress in the aftermath of a shooting \(American Psychological Association\)](#)
- [Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers \(Resources in multiple languages\)](#)
- [Helping Youth After Community Trauma: Tips for Educators](#)

SMMUSD provides numerous [mental health and community resources](#). Please contact your school administration to provide support to your student, or for secondary students, the student may seek support through their counselor or advisor.

Please stay safe out there. Continue to take care of yourselves and each other.

Sincerely,

Mark O. Kelly, Ed. D.
Interim Superintendent