

# Superintendents from Northeast Tennessee Release Statement Concerning Responsible Reporting of Potential School Threats

Superintendents from Northeast Tennessee have released the following joint statement:

In recent weeks, schools throughout our region have experienced a notable increase in reported threats to school safety. This appears to be part of a trend of similar, non-credible posts that have been circulating in communities across the country.

We encourage our students, staff, and families to speak up if they see or hear anything that could represent a potential safety threat. However, we ask that they use the appropriate channels to report these issues. These include:

- Contacting a school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel.
- Using school system specific reporting tools (contact local school district for details)
- Using Tennessee’s statewide reporting app, SafeTN [safety reporting app](#).
- Contacting local law enforcement (non-emergency number)
- Calling 911 (in an emergency situation).

Hoax threats can be highly disruptive to teaching and learning, while causing a great deal of stress and anxiety. We are asking for the help of our students, staff, families, and community members by not sharing rumors or posts referencing unsubstantiated threats via social media. Doing so only causes more confusion and misinformation to spread, which can make it difficult for law enforcement officials to investigate situations in a timely manner.

We all have a role to play in maintaining a safe, secure, and welcoming learning environment. Please **report—rather than repost**—any school safety concerns.

We thank the members of our respective communities for your support of our schools and commitment to the safety of the students under our care.

Dr. Steve Barnett  
Johnson City Schools

Dr. Christopher Hampton  
Kingsport City Schools

Dr. Justin Norton  
Newport City School

Dr. Jerry Boyd  
Washington County Schools

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