



# MEMORANDUM

## REGARDING SCHOOL THREATS

### SUMNER COUNTY, TN

The purpose of this is to provide an overview of the state of the law as it pertains to mass violence in schools or at school-related activities, and to summarize the agreed policy of the Sumner County School District, the Sumner County Juvenile Court, the Sumner County Sheriff's Office, and the Sumner County District Attorney's Office regarding these types of threats going forward.

Threats of mass violence on school grounds are of increasing concern to both law enforcement and parents around the United States and the State of Tennessee. As there are more instances of school-related mass violence across the nation, it is the highest priority of Sumner County to ensure that students are provided with a safe and secure learning environment.

Our community and many other communities have been inundated with threats of violence to our schools and school community. Such threats will not only be subject to school disciplinary actions but will also result in formal, criminal charges. Potential charges that can be taken out against any youth involved in this type of behavior include, but are not limited to:

1. Threat of Mass Violence on School Property or at a School-Related Activity (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-16-517)
2. Communicating a Threat Concerning a School Employee (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-13-114)
3. Commission of Acts of Terrorism (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-13-805)
4. False Report (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-16-502)
5. Harassment (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-17-308)
6. Carrying Weapons on School Property (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-17-1309)

7. Handgun Possession Prohibited (Tenn. Code Ann § 39-17-1319)

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann § 39-16-517(d), all members of our community are required to report any threat of mass violence towards any school grounds or any school related activities, regardless of the seriousness of the threat. There will be zero tolerance for these types of threats in our community, regardless of whether the juvenile has immediate means to carry out such a threat or is just “joking.” Every threat will be treated with the same scrutiny.

Any threats of violence will automatically trigger the following:

1. The School Resource Officer and School Administration will work together to ensure safety of the school community;
2. The Sumner County Sheriff’s Office and Sumner County School Administration will jointly conduct and complete a multi-faceted threat assessment investigation;
3. If probable cause of a crime exists, youth will be charged, and may be taken to detention. All juveniles 12 years of age and older charged with Threat of Mass Violence on School Property or at a School-Related Activity will be taken to detention. For juveniles under the age of 12 years old who are charged with Threat of Mass Violence on School Property or at a School-Related Activity, the Juvenile Court / District Attorney’s Office has the discretion as to whether to detain them. Once detained, the Juvenile Court will then hold a hearing to determine whether the juvenile will remain in juvenile detention until their case is completed; and
4. Depending upon findings, the juvenile may be referred to Mobile Crisis.
5. A student who is charged with a Threat of Mass Violence on School Property or at a School-Related Activity will be considered to have committed a zero tolerance offense under Sumner County Schools disciplinary code. Committing any of these offenses shall result in a student being expelled from regular attendance at school for at least one (1) calendar year, unless modified by the Director of Schools. Modification to the length of time shall be granted on a case-by-case basis. Students that commit zero tolerance offenses shall be assigned to an alternative school or program if staff and space are available as determined at the time of the infraction.

Our community needs to work together to ensure the safety of our children. We are strongly urging all parents and guardians to please speak with your child about this issue, and the administrative and criminal consequences that could result from such actions.

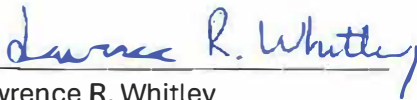
All parents and guardians in our community should have a discussion with their child about what is appropriate to say to their peers and school staff. Using violent and threatening language with other students and/or school staff will be met with severe law enforcement and school disciplinary consequences.



David R. Howard, Judge  
Sumner County Juvenile Court



Scott Langford, School Superintendent  
Sumner County Schools



Lawrence R. Whitley  
District Attorney General

Sign by person  
enroll. per abs



Eric Craddock  
Sumner County Sheriff