SCHOOL SAFETY
PLAINLY

FOR STAFF & PARENTS

WHEN A SCHOOL THREAT TURNS OUT TO BE A HOAX

Hoax threats still cause real lockdowns. Here's how families can help.

WHILE IT'S CHECKED OUT

DURING

- **Wait for the school's official message.** Police treat every threat as real until it's cleared.
- **Don't go to the school** unless you're asked to. Roads must stay clear for responders.
- **Bring a photo ID** if you're asked to pick up your child.

ONLINE OR IN A GROUP CHAT

IF YOU SEE ONE

- **Report it** to the school and local police, or tips.fbi.gov.
- **Screenshot it, don't share it.** Reposting spreads fear and can slow the investigation.

BEFORE IT HAPPENS

TALK WITH KIDS

- **A “joke” threat is a crime.** Students can face school discipline and criminal charges.
- **Ask what they've heard,** and remind them that telling an adult is never snitching.
- **Watch for worry afterward.** The school counselor can help.

If a child or teen talks about wanting to hurt themselves, call or text 988.

In an emergency, call 911 first.

Free to copy and share for school and family use.