COMMERCE CITY SCHOOLS

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Commerce Middle School Threatening Statements Fact Sheet

How many instances of threats have there been this school year? There have been multiple instances of non-credible threatening statements this school year made by CMS students.

How were school officials made aware of these threatening statements? In all instances, students who heard the threats did exactly what we hope they would do and told a staff member. We appreciate the diligence of these students. We take all threats seriously and respond immediately. We ask that if students hear or see something concerning, they report it immediately so we can respond appropriately.

How is Commerce Middle School handling these non-credible threats? We conduct a full investigation involving our local law enforcement and school/district officials, which has taken time away from our focus on high-quality instruction. We are committed to fully investigating all threats, credible or non-credible, to ensure we maintain a safe environment. While the school cannot prevent students from making threatening statements, we will address them immediately and use every aspect of the law allowed. We are asking families to please communicate to your children the severity of their words and actions in our school environment with a zero-tolerance approach.

Can we release the outcomes of the investigations and/or the consequences of these actions? Per state law, we are not allowed to share the outcomes of our investigations or the legal proceedings of any individual student.

What are the potential legal charges? Potential legal charges include Disruption of a Public School, Terroristic Threats, and Disorderly Conduct. We have and will pursue all charges that the law will allow. We appreciate the partnership between the schools, SROs, and the Commerce Police Department. Once the school notifies law enforcement of these situations, the legal consequences are fully in the hands of law enforcement and not in any way controlled by the school.

Who can I talk to with questions? You may contact Mr. Billy Kirk, Mrs. Jordan Raettig, or Chief Drossman with questions. We are committed to providing a safe, instructionally-focused environment for our students and staff, and we appreciate your partnership and support.