



# BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT EDUCATION CENTER

1516 Sycamore Street  
Bethlehem, PA 18017-6099  
610-861-0500

January 13, 2026

Dear BASD Families and Employees,

I am writing to share an update about a new state requirement related to school safety communication. This information is intended to keep you informed and to clarify what you may see in future notifications from the District.

A new law, **Pennsylvania Act 44 of 2025**, took effect last week. The law requires school districts to notify parents/guardians and employees whenever school administration or staff respond to an incident involving a weapon on school property, at a school-sponsored event, or on district transportation. It is important to note that due to privacy protections built into the law, schools are limited to sharing only the required notification language and cannot provide additional details or personally identifiable information. This ensures compliance with state and federal laws, including FERPA, and protects the privacy of students and staff. Families and staff who wish to learn more about Act 44 may visit The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania website at:

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/education/resources/policies-acts-and-laws/basic-education-circulars-beccs/pa-code/notification-weapons-incidents>

Above all else, the safety and well-being of our students and employees remain our highest priority. We are committed to creating safe, supportive learning environments and to maintaining open communication with our school community. You may also find it helpful to review the **Bethlehem Area School District's Framework for Citizenship**, which outlines our approach to school safety, positive behavior, and community responsibility:

<https://www.basdschools.org/for-families/framework-for-citizenship>

Thank you for your continued trust, partnership, and support of our schools.

Warm regards,

Jack P. Silva, Ed.D.  
Superintendent