



## REQUIRED NOTICE

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Our most important function in the Walton-Verona Independent School District is to provide the safest learning environment possible for all of our students and staff members.

Unfortunately, in recent years, Kentucky's P-12 schools have experienced an escalation of terroristic threats being made by students with intent to do harm to other students or school staff members. Plainly stated, these are threats being made to shoot people or detonate bombs with lethal intent. In many of those cases, school and law enforcement officials were forced to close schools to investigate the threats that had been made. Consequently, school attendance plummeted for days after the threat was made. Many school leaders have said that the emotional, instructional, and financial impacts of these acts are incalculable.

Terroristic Threatening in the second degree is defined in state law (KRS 508.078)

(1) A person is guilty of terroristic threatening in the second degree when, other than as provided in KRS 508.075, he or she intentionally:

b) Makes false statements by any means, including by electronic communication, for the purpose of:

1. Causing evacuation of a school building, school property, or school-sanctioned activity;
2. Causing cancellation of school classes or school-sanctioned activity; or
3. Creating fear of serious bodily harm among students, parents, or school personnel

Such threats to our students and school staff will not be tolerated. As a result, the purpose of this letter is to notify all parents and guardians that school district officials (in coordination with responding law enforcement agencies) can/will pursue immediate legal charges for felony terroristic threatening in the second degree, against anyone who makes such threats.

Our approach to eliminating terroristic threatening in our school and district is strong and unwavering, and as a result, it is imperative that you discuss this critically important matter with your student as soon as possible. Please assist our schools by educating your child(ren) on the seriousness of its consequences.

Together we can prevent this unnecessary, dangerous, and disruptive crime from victimizing our schools. I appreciate your partnership in keeping our school the safest place for your student to learn and grow.

Sincerely,

Matt Baker

Superintendent

Walton-Verona Independent Schools