



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

December 14, 2012

The Honorable Michael L. Williams
Commissioner of Education
Texas Education Agency
1701 North Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701-1494

Dear Commissioner Williams:

In light of the tragic elementary school shooting today in Newtown, Connecticut, I am asking that you direct all school districts to review their emergency operation plans. It is essential that we ensure all Texas schools are equipped and ready to carry out a strategic plan to secure the safety of students and staff in the event of a threat such as the one that occurred today.

I encourage districts to contact the Texas School Safety Center (TSSC) at Texas State University if they need assistance in developing a plan of response or improving their existing plan. Additional resources are available to districts at TSSC's website:
<http://www.txssc.txstate.edu/K12/>.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families impacted by today's tragedy, while our focus here is on doing everything within our power to protect the safety of Texas children whose parents have entrusted them to the care of our public schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:khk