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Dear Elk Grove Unified Parents and Families,

In a recent note to staff, I shared that the tragedy and sadness that unfolded at Saugus High School could be felt by all of us. Be assured that our District has safety and security strategies, systems and training drills in place to protect students and staff. We have a dedicated and devoted safety and security team and many additional resources through our relationships with local law enforcement and emergency services agencies, which includes cyber-intelligence. We also have multiple methods for reporting concerns and I thank those who file such reports so we can take immediate action. My staff and I will be sending our deepest condolences to the school and district in Santa Clarita.

Growing up today can be more challenging than ever and we all must work together to provide environments where kids are safe, cared for and supported. There are people within our District who care, are knowledgeable, willing to listen and learn and most importantly, who can help develop positive relationships for and with students and their families. It's my calling to assist families with preschoolers or seniors in positively connecting with their schools. I am a big believer that a connected kid is a successful kid. Such connections helped me in school and I witnessed firsthand how connections at school positively impacted my two sons.

With that said, this time of year can be very exciting and celebratory as well as stressful and trying. Please stay connected and pay attention to signs that someone else may be struggling. Taking the time to reach out to such a person can make all the difference. There is no more important work than ours in raising and developing our youth, and I am committed to working with our schools and families to ensure we meet the needs of each kid, every day.

2020 will be here before we know it. With the new year begins the critical budget development process for the next school year. I thank parents for participating in the LCAP Survey and volunteering to be involved in School Site Councils and other advisory groups at the local and district level. Your voice and perspective are needed and valued. The budget process starts with the Governor's preliminary budget proposal release in mid-January. The proposed budget signals the relative strength of the state's economy. Many leading economic indicators are mixed at this time. Forecasters remain split between believing the economic recovery still has energy and predicting a pending recession. We will closely monitor the process and work collaboratively with our Board of Trustees and our local employee organizations to develop a budget that balances fiscal solvency with meeting the needs of students and employees. Please stay tuned.

Thank you and Happy and Safe Holidays,

Christopher R. Hoffman
Superintendent
Elk Grove Unified School District