



## OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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*Edward M. Brand, Ed.D.*  
*Superintendent*

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On behalf of the Sweetwater Union High School District, we want to express our deepest condolences to the Sandy Hook Elementary community in Newtown, Connecticut. Our thoughts are with them as they struggle with this tragic and senseless act of violence.

Each day, we know that parents trust us to watch over their children, educate them and ensure that they are safe. We do not take this responsibility lightly. The Sweetwater District has been vigilant about ensuring that safety plans are in place so that we are as prepared as possible to protect students in the event of an unforeseen crisis situation. These plans are reviewed annually and are updated as necessary throughout the year.

Sweetwater Schools have comprehensive safety protocols in place and a district Crisis Team that is prepared to respond to situations that arise. This team has done a tremendous job of training staff and administrators throughout the district to assess and take action in emergencies. We have full-time psychologists at all of our schools and counselors who work closely with students. The Sweetwater District has maintained strong relationships with local law-enforcement agencies that are trained and prepared to immediately respond to our specific needs.

We ask and encourage all parents and students to work with staff on identifying concerns before they become crisis situations. Working together we can continue to ensure that our schools remain a safe and nurturing environment for all.

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*The Sweetwater Union High School District will fulfill the promise of 100% student success.*

Sweetwater Union High School District programs and activities shall be free from discrimination based on gender, sex, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, marital or parental status, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation or the perception of one or more of such characteristics.

SUHSD Board Policy 0410.