**Dear (YOUR SCHOOL NAME/DISTRICT):**

I can recall several years ago the shocking and unforgettable Columbine High School massacre that occurred on Tuesday, April 20, 1999, in the state of Colorado. It is said to be the fourth-deadliest school massacre in the United States history.

Two teenage students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, embarked on a horrific journey that left 12 students and one teacher dead and over 3 dozen students injured. I am certain that the citizens of Jefferson County would never have anticipated that a teenager, in this case two, could commit such a horrible crime.

The evil that is masquerading, manipulating, and seizing the hearts and minds of our youth has held its tight grip far too long. We are living in a day where teenage suicide is increasingly rising and we are losing our youth fast.

The carrying of deadly weapons into our schools by students and the rapid increase of crime within our classroom walls all over the United State is what propelled me to found the cause **P.A.S.S 4L.I.F.E. (Protecting All Students/Staff 4Living in Full Effect)**. **P.A.S.S. 4L.I.F.E’s** mission is to help school’s increase their public safety awareness by implementing resources, tools, and training and education that will enhance and provide a safer and more secure environment that will keep both students and staff safe.

Because of the increasing dangers that exist in today’s society, it would behoove our school district to become **PROACTIVE** in order to provide a safer means of protection of student and staff life during campus hours. I am more than certain that if Columbine High School had an aggressive security system in place, the massacre of April 20, 1999, could have been prevented and the lives of many would have been spared.

For a brief moment, let us suppose that a student who brought a gun to school in times past decided to do bodily harm to another student, staff member, himself or all the above? Do your risk and management and training program include a Columbine Massacre plan? What do you think Columbine High School would do different or change if they knew the results of that devastating day? What is **(YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT NAME)** prepared to do differently or change if they knew something like this or similar was coming their way?

While these are difficult and hypothetical questions, the ramifications of the reality are far worse. “But we’re just a small town. Nothing like this ever happens here.” This is a mindset that must be refuted. Reality is crying out in our hallways and in our classrooms every time a student brings a gun or a weapon to school. **Remember Columbine; for this was their harsh reality.**

**P.A.S.S. 4L.I.F.E** implores you to not wait until something tragically or fatal happens. The fact that students have brought weapons to school recently and in times past is a distinct and clear indication that the security measure is compromised, therefore, putting the lives of both student and staff at risk.

**P.A.S.S. 4L.I.F.E** proposes that each school district move to take immediate and necessary actions to pursue and ensure the protection of student and staff life by providing the following:

***1. Metal detectors installed at each entrance/exit***

***2. The hire for at least one on duty security personnel during school hours and events***

***3. Hall payphones***

***4. Cameras stationed at every entrance/exit level***

***5. Install bullet proof windows on every classroom door***

***6. Install an automatic lock-down security doors for each classroom***

***7. Training scenario activities to enhance the effectiveness of first-responders to active shooting attacks, as well as, prepare and educate students in the event a real life situation occurs.***

I am hopeful and pray that **P.A.S.S. 4L.I.F.E** will plant a seed in your hearts and minds and that it will awaken and give birth to the need for a broader spectrum of student and faculty safety.

**Sincerely,**

**Narda Goodson**

***First Lady of Whitewright, Texas***

[***http://firstladiesoftheroundtable.*com**](http://firstladiesoftheroundtable.com)

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