



SPECIAL EDUCATION & PUPIL SERVICES

1200 E. Fairmount Avenue Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

P: 414-963-3924 F: 414-963-3959

www.wfbschools.com

Stacy Gahan, PhD

**Director of Special Education
& Pupil Services**

10-15-20

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Each school year we continue to assess and refine our safety protocols and practices across a number of domains. School safety is a complex, interrelated construct, that connects feelings, emotions, perceptions, relationships and physical protection. The District seeks to provide a safe and positive learning environment for all students.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of School Safety (OSS) recently launched the SPEAK UP, SPEAK OUT (SUSO) Resource Center. One facet of the SUSO site is the 24/7 reporting system. The SUSO threat reporting system aims to empower students to share their concerns safely and confidentially. It can be used to identify concerns such as, but not limited to threats to school, as well as other daily safety concerns students encounter, such as bullying, drug use, and suicidal ideation.

The District has had, and continues to have a process in place for reporting potential bullying and harassment (Richards form [here](#)), which will continue to be used. Furthermore, students are encouraged to report any concerns to a trusted adult. The SUSO reporting system offers an additional reporting resource to our students and families.

Students, parents/guardians, school staff, and community members can submit a school safety concern, by downloading the SUSO app (Android and iOS), visiting speakup.widoj.gov or by calling 1-800-MY-SUSO-1. SUSO Resource Center staff work around-the-clock to respond to reports and to deploy a response locally by communicating directly with school administration and law enforcement.

At the elementary level we will embed this resource as part of our regular bullying and conflict counseling lessons in October and November in a developmentally appropriate manner. At the middle school, it will be included during homeroom periods and at high school it will be embedded during advisory periods.

To learn more about the SUSO Resource Center and how to report safety concerns, visit speakup.widoj.gov or find us on social media @speakupwi. Please contact Dr. Stacy Gahan or Brian Chase, Director of Building and Grounds with any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Stacy Gahan and Brian Chase

