



## DIOCESE OF SACRAMENTO

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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

September 12, 2025

Bishop Soto and the Department of Catholic Schools is firmly committed to ensuring that every child entrusted to our Catholic schools can learn, grow, and flourish in a safe environment. While recent tragedies in the nation have understandably raised concerns, please be assured that the safety of the students remains our highest priority.

Each Catholic school in the Diocese is required to have an active School Safety Committee led by the school principal and a designated Safety Captain. Each School Safety Committee consists of various stakeholders. Safety Captains receive annual training and resources directly from the Diocese, including guidance from law enforcement and safety professionals, to ensure that schools remain current on best practices and emergency protocols.

In addition, every school follows a comprehensive safety checklist throughout the academic year. This includes monthly fire drills, annual earthquake and lockdown drills (conducted in collaboration with local law enforcement), CPR and first aid certification for staff, and regular Catholic Mutual safety trainings on topics such as severe weather preparedness, playground safety, and anti-bullying awareness. These measures are not optional, rather they are an essential part of the school culture.

The Diocese also provides schools with ongoing access to resources and training opportunities through private, local, state, and federal partners, including the FBI School Safety Symposium and active threat prevention programs. We share digital safety education with families, provide emergency management resources, and make mental health and trauma-informed support tools available to school leaders.

Together, these efforts reflect our deep commitment to protecting the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of every student. A Catholic education must form the mind, body, heart, and soul. This requires an environment of reverent prayer, safety, trust, and mutual respect.

We invite all parents to continue partnering with us in prayer and vigilance. May the Lord Jesus, our rock and our refuge, watch over the schools and bless our children with peace and security.