



ELPS Superintendent's Report September 11, 2023

*ELPS Updates will be sent every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, following Monday Board of Education meetings.

New ELPS Website Coming Soon!

We have been working with Foxbright, our website software solution, to update and redesign our district website to make it more mobile and user-friendly. After months of preparation and work, we are close to a release date for the updated site and welcome feedback once we roll over.

Please Complete Free & Reduced Lunch Forms

We are thankful to Michigan lawmakers who included funding for free breakfast and lunch meals for all pre-K through high school students this school year; however, we still need families to complete the Free and Reduced Lunch Forms that have been distributed by the buildings. Certain funding, such as 31a At-Risk and Title 1, are based on data from these forms. Please request a form from your building and return it to the main office if you think you may qualify for free or reduced lunch costs. This will help ensure constant funding for the coming years.

Representative Tsernoglou's Teacher of the Month Recognition

Representative Penelope Tsernoglou wishes to acknowledge the important work that teachers and educators bring to their students and the community. Please submit who you believe has done exceptional work and deserves recognition! Anyone can make a nomination.

Teacher of the Month Program link: <https://forms.gle/QmLUppjxCrgTdFw26>

Jamie Vollmer Educational Event

Board members, administrators, school staff and community members are invited to an evening with Jamie Vollmer, business executive turned public school advocate and author. He speaks across the country sharing the story of public education and explaining why it's the greatest return on investment we will ever see from our tax dollar. He will be sharing why "Schools Cannot Do It Alone" on October 2, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. at Holt High School. This event is sponsored by Holt Public Schools, Ingham Intermediate School District, Dean Transportation, Clark Hill and SetSeg. If you are interested in attending, please use this link to register:

<https://www.inghamisd.org/thelatest/events/jamie-vollmer-education-event/>

Annual Reminders and Information for Families and Staff

- Be SMART – Secure Gun Storage

Firearms are the leading cause of death among children in the United States. The Board of Education passed a [Safe Gun Storage Resolution](#) at their March 13, 2023 meeting which includes annual notice to families about the importance of secure gun storage to protect minors from accessing unsecured guns.

The Be SMART website includes numerous handouts and other resources on best practices for gun storage, types of storage and guidance for talking to your children about guns. The handouts can be accessed here: <https://besmartforkids.org/secure-gun-storage/resources/>

A Be SMART presentation was held at Marble Elementary School in the evening on Wednesday, August 30. Local champions for safe gun storage are available to bring this presentation to other school councils or local groups. Please reach out to Dori Leyko if you'd like to be connected with these individuals.

- **OK2Say**

OK2Say is the student safety program which allows students to confidentially report tips on potential harm or criminal activities directed at students, school employees, and schools. It uses a comprehensive communication system to facilitate tip sharing among students, parents, school personnel, community mental health service programs, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and law enforcement officials about harmful behaviors that threaten to disrupt the learning environment. Anyone can report tips confidentially 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

By phone: 8-555-OK2Say (855-565-2729)

By text: 652729 (OK2Say)

By email: OK2Say@mi.gov

By downloading the OK2Say app

- **COVID-19 Guidelines**

May 11, 2023 marked the end of the federal COVID-19 public health emergency declaration, but we know that COVID-19 is still around and contagious. ELPS uses the current Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance on [isolation and exposure](#). Following these guidelines will help prevent the spread of the virus to others.

ELPS does have COVID-19 antigen tests for distribution to families upon request through your building's main office.

- **ELPS Anti-Bullying Policy – [Policy 5207](#)**

ELPS is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. Policy 5207 includes relevant definitions, as well as reporting and investigation procedures. In addition, all ELPS staff members complete annual bullying training as part of their professional development.

Next Board of Education Meeting is October 9, 2023

Due to Yom Kippur falling on the date of the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting, there will be no meeting on September 25. The next meeting of the Board of Education is Monday, October 9, 2023.