



Barbara Deane-Williams
Superintendent of Schools
Rochester City School District
131 West Broad Street
Rochester, New York 14614
www.rcsdk12.org

January 13, 2017

Dear Rochester City School District Families,

I am writing about an extremely troubling event from another state that may affect your children. There is a video circulating on social media that shows a twelve-year-old girl in Georgia committing suicide.

I want you to know that the District has a robust web-filtering policy activated on the District network to prevent students and staff from accessing social networking, adult content websites, as well as many other unsafe web-traffic categories. Additionally, the District monitors all student email and file folder accounts in order to ensure their safety.

Please be aware of your child's social media presence. If your child has come across this video, we encourage you to engage in a conversation that allows your child to express his or her feelings. Here is a resource to help guide that conversation: [Explaining Suicide to Children](#).

Our students' social and emotional well-being is a priority in our District and the Rochester community. The risk of trauma that can come from watching a video of this nature is a cause for concern. We are also well aware of the real implications of copycat behavior in young people. It is critical that we work together to closely monitor our students, talk to them about their emotional health and well-being and reach out for help should they need it.

Our District support teams are aware of the video and prepared to provide appropriate supports for any students who may need it. If you feel your child would benefit from such support, please don't hesitate to contact your child's Principal or School Support Team.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Deane-Williams".

Barbara Deane-Williams
Superintendent of Schools