

# It's Not A Joke



It's not a joke.

When a person, regardless of age, makes a threat to harm students or faculty at a school, it may seem to some like a youthful prank, but to local law enforcement and school communities - State's Attorney, Sheriff, Chiefs of Police and School Administrators - it is no laughing matter. Threatening violence at a school, personally or through social media, is a crime that is punishable by years in prison or juvenile detention. The havoc and fear, especially in light of recent events, created when someone threatens a school community is real, no matter the intentions of the person who communicates that threat. All threats are taken seriously, and investigating them diverts precious resources. The law enforcement community stands united in making our schools safe. In Illinois that means that threats of violence are no joke and those that make them will be investigated and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

Chief Bryan Baker, Charleston Police Department

Todd J. Vilardo, Superintendent, Charleston CUSD #1

Chief Jason Taylor, Mattoon Police Department

Larry Lilly, Superintendent, Mattoon CUSD #2

Chief Jack Sanders, Oakland Police Department

Lance Landeck, Superintendent, Oakland CUSD #5

Sheriff Jimmy Rankin, Coles County Sheriff's Office

Brian Bower, Coles County State's Attorney