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A Statement by PDK International on Yesterday's Tragic School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas

*PDK International and its community of educators stand with the families and educators of
Robb Elementary School.*

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA (May 25, 2022) – PDK International stands in solidarity with the individuals and community of Uvalde, Texas, who were impacted by the tragic shooting that occurred on May 24, 2022, at Robb Elementary School. The school shooting that unfolded yesterday “was the deadliest school shooting since 2012, when a gunman shot and killed 26 people as young as 5-years-old at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, [Connecticut].”ⁱ Sadly, the story of school shootings in America is not a new one, with 27 school shootings resulting in injuries or deaths in 2022 alone.

It is time for this heart-breaking, recurring story to come to an end. Congress needs to take action to pass gun control policies, gun owners need to ensure firearms are safely secured in their homes, and schools need support and resources to ensure that they can continue to prevent and respond to active shooter situations in ways that avoid traumatizing students unnecessarily.

According to the 2018 PDK Poll – taken after the shooting at Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida – 72 percent of parents were only somewhat, not very, or not at all confident in the security of their schools against shootings.ⁱⁱ Policymakers need to provide funding and resources for schools to put in place safeguards, to combat these active shooter situations. School leaders need to ensure that any measures they adopt, including safety drills, meet ethical standards and protect the mental health and well-being of all students.

Students and adults need access to qualified mental health professionals, to cope with traumatic and emotional experiences. School leaders – and their governing boards – need to prioritize the use of funding to hire an appropriate number of mental health professionals and take a proactive approach in communicating existing mental health resources to their students and staff in an environment that promotes safety and is free of judgement.

PDK International invites the public to read the December 2013/January 2014 issue of *Kappan* magazine, “[Recovering when the unthinkable strikes your school](#),” to learn more about how schools can respond to traumatic events. We encourage all members of the public to seek assistance from trained professionals as they cope with the emotions that arise in the wake of these events. Click [here](#) to access a list of crisis hotlines and resources from the American Psychological Association.

About PDK International

Established in 1906, PDK International supports P-20 educators, researchers, and policy makers by strengthening their commitment to the profession throughout the entire arc of their careers. We are committed to elevating the profession through the intersection of research and practice. Through our core values of social justice, engagement, excellence, and results, we encourage educators and stakeholders to elevate the discourse and change the narrative around teaching and learning to ensure that every student has a high-quality equitable education.

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ⁱ *School Shootings This Year: How Many and Where.* (2022, May 24). EducationWeek. Retrieved May 24, 2022, from <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/school-shootings-this-year-how-many-and-where/2022/01>

ⁱⁱ PDK International. (2018, September). *Teaching: Respect but dwindling appeal.* https://pdkpoll.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/pdkpoll50_2018.pdf