COURAGE 2 REPORT

Prevent School Violence
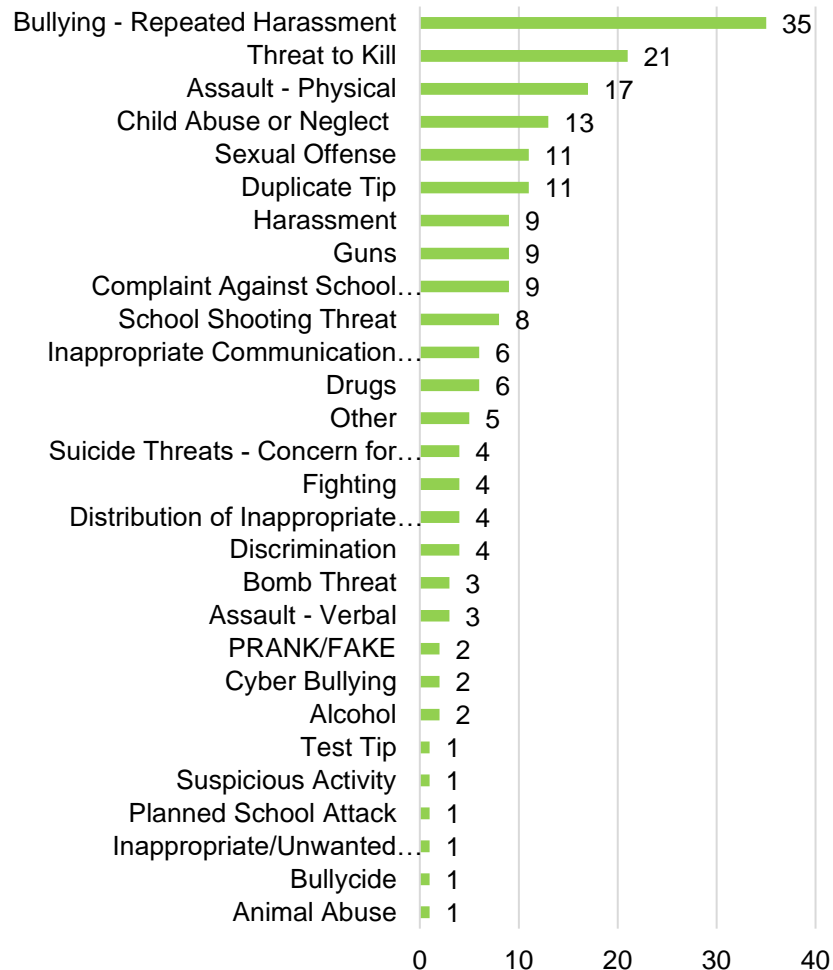
April 2025 Monthly Activity Summary

April Tip Overview

Tip Summary: 194 Total

Category	Count
Bullying - Repeated Harassment	35
Threat to Kill	21
Assault - Physical	17
Child Abuse or Neglect	13
Sexual Offense	11
Duplicate Tip	11
Harassment	9
Guns	9
Complaint Against School…	9
School Shooting Threat	8
Inappropriate Communication…	6
Drugs	6
Other	5
Suicide Threats - Concern for…	4
Fighting	4
Distribution of Inappropriate…	4
Discrimination	4
Bomb Threat	3
Assault - Verbal	3
PRANK/FAKE	2
Cyber Bullying	2
Alcohol	2
Test Tip	1
Suspicious Activity	1
Planned School Attack	1
Inappropriate/Unwanted…	1
Bullycide	1
Animal Abuse	1

Tip Volume by the Hour:

Hour	Count	
12:00 AM	1	Report
1:00 AM	3	Reports
2:00 AM	1	Report
3:00 AM	2	Reports
4:00 AM	0	Reports
5:00 AM	0	Reports
6:00 AM	2	Reports
7:00 AM	6	Reports
8:00 AM	9	Reports
9:00 AM	13	Reports
10:00 AM	12	Reports
11:00 AM	8	Reports
12:00 PM	12	Reports
1:00 PM	17	Reports
2:00 PM	18	Reports
3:00 PM	17	Reports
4:00 PM	15	Reports
5:00 PM	11	Reports
6:00 PM	10	Reports
7:00 PM	13	Reports
8:00 PM	9	Reports
9:00 PM	5	Reports
10:00 PM	6	Reports
11:00 PM	4	Reports

School Shooting Threats received through Courage2Report dropped by over 50 % from the previous month. However, it is difficult to definitively say whether school shooting threats have dropped in the past month without specific, up-to-the-minute data. In April of 2024 we received 9 School Shooting Threats. It is crucial that we continue monitoring and addressing all school violence indicators; our schools depend on it.

Tip Volume by Day:

Day	Count
Sunday	7
Monday	29
Tuesday	32
Wednesday	45
Thursday	36
Friday	39
Saturday	6

Trainings and Conferences

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety:
Active Shooter Preparedness Webinar:
May 14, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Topics of discussion:
- Recognition: Defining the threat
- Prevention: Strategies to help prevent an incident
- Protection: Security measure considerations
- Mitigation: Actions to minimize consequences
- Response: Options / Expectations during an incident
- Recovery: Transitioning to a "new normal"

Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) School Safety:
School Safety Summer Planning: Building Stronger K-12 Emergency Plans:
May 15, 2 p.m.

- Summer break can be a critical time for assessing and updating emergency plans and procedures for the upcoming school year. This training, specifically geared towards school and district administrators and K-12 emergency managers, will feature a facilitated discussion with school security experts on key emergency planning considerations. The session will include information on the national threat environment, strategies for understanding and addressing local factors and risks, and recommendations on how to incorporate lessons learned from other school incidents and assessments. It will also provide information on how school leaders can plan and prepare for emergencies in a limited resource environment.

U.S. Secret Service:
Enhancing School Safety Using Behavioral Threat Assessment:
May 21 and July 16 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

- In this virtual training event, NTAC researchers highlight the key findings and implications from our research on school violence prevention. In this training, you will learn about the background, thinking, and behavior of school attackers and how some schools discovered and stopped plots before violence occurred. This training will provide guidance on how schools may develop or improve existing violence prevention programs utilizing a behavioral threat assessment model.

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association:
High In Plain Sight presented by Tall Cop:
June 3, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Kansas City, MO

- This session will provide attendees with the ability, knowledge and confidence to help prevent and identify students who may be abusing drugs and / or alcohol. Attendees will also be taught the strategies and different terms that are consistent with student alcohol & drug abuse. There are several identifiers, logos and terms that are commonly related to drug (illegal and over the counter) and alcohol abuse, marijuana abuse, and drug concealment at school. Lunch will be provided.

Trainings and Conferences

Missouri Juvenile Justice Association:
Bridging Gaps for Youth - Course for Law Enforcement:
June 4, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Webb City, MO

Lunch will be provided. Approved for 6.5 Post Credit Hours.
Topics include:

- Roles of SROs and Educators when addressing student misbehavior
- The Juvenile Court process
- Adolescent Development and Mental Health Conditions
- Trauma-Informed and Restorative Practices
- Crises Prevention and De-Escalation Techniques
- Racial/Ethnic Disparities in the Juvenile Justice System
- Behavior Threat Assessment and Management

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
Missouri Comprehensive School-Based Mental Health (SBMH) Training:
June 5-6

- This in-depth, two-day training connects school mental health professionals, school health professionals, administrators, and others to the latest national evidence-based best practices and guidance.

National Center for School Safety
Strengthening Student Mental Health with Community Partnerships:
June 18, 12:00 p.m.

- Many school districts are reporting a significant increase in student mental health concerns and growing challenges in accessing counseling services and other resources, particularly in rural areas. This webinar will cover how to leverage your community's unique strengths to support student mental health. Presenters will explore strategies for selecting and engaging community partners, guide you through conducting needs assessments and resource mapping, and share best practices for maintaining and strengthening partnerships over time.

Where We've Been, Where We're Going! 🚗

Past

- 04/09/2025 – Evan's Voice Community Event, Aurora

- 04/18/2025 – K-12 Law Enforcement Officers Intelligence Group: Modeling School Safety conference, Afton

- 05/04/2025 – 05/06/2025 – MO Police Chiefs Association Conference, Osage Beach

Present

- 05/21/2025 – 05/23/2025 – MO Juvenile Justice Association Conference, St. Louis

- 06/12/2025 – FBI School Safety Initiative at Ladue Horton Watkins High School, St. Louis

- 06/16/2025 – 06/18/2025 – CES School Safety Academy, Branson

*If you have any back to school events you would like us to attend, please send us an email at courage2reportmo@mshp.dps.mo.gov or **click here** to fill out our event form.

Common Trauma Symptoms in Students and Helpful Strategies for Educators

Trauma can have a detrimental impact on students' functioning in the school setting.[1] Educators need tools to identify and support students who may have experienced or are currently experiencing traumatic stress.

The front of this handout lists common trauma symptoms grouped into the following categories: **physical**, **cognitive**, **social and emotional**, **language and communication**, and **learning**.[2] It is important to note that children can respond to trauma in many different ways and may not exhibit all of these symptoms. You can use this list to guide your thinking in identifying students who may have experienced trauma and providing or referring students to appropriate supports.

The back of this handout outlines strategies for working with students who may exhibit emotional or behavioral symptoms of trauma. You can use **preventative strategies** in everyday classroom interactions, **"in the moment" strategies** when students are in crisis, and **"after the moment" strategies**[3] after a student's behaviors and emotions have deescalated. These strategies generally target students' **safety**, **positive relationships**, and **self-regulation**, and are focused on **teaching appropriate skills** and **avoiding punishment** (which may re-traumatize students).

Physical

- Increased somatic complaints (e.g., headaches and stomachaches)
- Over- or under-reacting to stimuli (e.g., getting startled easily [or not at all] by bells, physical contact, doors slamming, sirens)
- Increased activity level (e.g., fidgeting, getting out of seat)
- Withdrawal from other people and activities

Cognitive

- Recreating the traumatic event (e.g., repeatedly talking about or "playing out" the event) or avoiding topics that serve as reminders
- Difficulties with executive function (e.g., impulse control, attention)
- Worry and fear about safety of self and others
- Dissociation (e.g., disconnected from surroundings, "spacing out")

Resources

Social and Emotional	• Rapid changes in heightened emotions (e.g., extremely sad to angry) • Change in ability to interpret or respond appropriately to social cues • Difficulties with emotion regulation and impulse control (e.g., angry outbursts, aggression, increased distress) • Emotional numbness, isolation, and detachment
Language and Communication	• Language development delays and challenges • Difficulties with expressive (e.g., expressing thoughts and feelings) and receptive language (e.g., understanding nonverbal cues) • Difficulties with nonverbal communication (e.g., eye contact) • Use of hurtful language (e.g., to keep others at a distance)
Learning	• Absenteeism and changes in academic performance/engagement • Difficulties with authority, redirection, or criticism • Difficulties listening and concentrating during instruction • Difficulties with memory (e.g., may require more repititions) • Difficulties generalizing learned material in different contexts

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[1] Honsinger & Brown, 2019.
[2] Symptoms adapted from Statman-Weil, 2015 and National Child Traumatic Stress Network Schools Committee, 2008.
[3] Strategies adapted from Honsinger & Brown, 2019.

*This is the only the first page of the guide. To access the full pdf guide from Handle With Care MO click here.

Resources

The firearm safety education program serves as the official firearm safety initiative of the National Shooting Sports Foundation. Their aim is to offer effective firearm safety solutions tailored to every community. They also provide free safety kits. Visit their site to learn more and download their free firearm safety posters.

CABLE LOCK
Price Range: $10–$50

A cable lock can be used on most firearms, allows for quick acess in an emergency and offers security from theft. The cable runs through the barrel or action of a firearm to prevent it from being accidentally fired, requiring either a key or combination to unlock it.

- $ AFFORDABLE
- ✓ ACCESSIBLE
- 🔒 THEFT DETERRENT

GUN CASE
Price Range: $10–$150

For those looking to conceal, protect or legally transport a registered firearm, a gun case is an affordable solution available in a variety of materials including plastic, fabric or metal. Be sure to lock it with an external device for added security.

- $ AFFORDABLE
- 💼 PORTABLE
- ⚠ PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

LOCK BOX
Price Range: $25–$350

With integrated locks, storage boxes provide reliable protection for firearms, and allow gun owners to legally transport them outside of their home.

- 💼 PORTABLE
- ✓ ACCESSIBLE
- ⚠ PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

ELECTRONIC LOCK BOX
Price Range: $50–$350

Electronic lock boxes are an effective way to store or legally transport firearms, and they also prevent theft since only the person with the code can access the contents. Some electronic lock boxes are specially designed for quick access to stored firearms.

- 💼 PORTABLE
- 🔒 THEFT DETERRENT
- ⚠ PROTECTS FROM DAMAGE

Resources

Cyberbullying.org has numerous free PDF resources available for educators. Included are tip sheets, activities, and strategies to reduce tech misuse and promote its positive use. Visit the link to learn more and access these great guides.

What is Bullying?

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying Statistics

Cyberbullying Resources for Youth

Cyberbullying Keynotes & Workshops

Cyberbullying Student Presentations & Assemblies

Cyberbullying Parent and Community Presentations

Most Popular Social Media Apps

Cyberbullying Resources for Educators

Bullying & Cyberbullying Laws

Bullying & Cyberbullying Policies In Your State

Resources

FACT SHEET

Sextortion: Protecting Youth Through the School Emergency Operations Plan

READINESS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT FOR SCHOOLS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

This fact sheet describes sextortion and its impacts on students and outlines how schools can protect youth from sextortion through the creation and modification of a Sextortion Annex in the school emergency operations plan (EOP).

Defining Sextortion

Sextortion is a form of online sexual exploitation and child pornography (when minors are involved) in which offenders use Internet technology to entice, coerce, or blackmail people into sharing sexually explicit images or videos of themselves online. Offenders often manipulate victims into providing sexually explicit images or meeting the offender's monetary or sexual demands by threatening to post the victim's images online or to share the images with the victim's friends and family.

Ensuring that students come to school prepared to learn involves comprehensive emergency management planning that supports students in all settings and at all times. This includes protecting students as they participate in online spaces. As Internet communication technology continues to advance, so do opportunities for criminals to entice, exploit, and victimize children online. The prevailing use of mobile devices and the popularization of mobile applications, particularly social media, have given rise to new types of Internet-based crimes, including child pornography, identity theft, illegal access to data, and sextortion.

As the largest group of Internet users and the segment of the population most likely to use social media, youth are among the vulnerable populations at risk of being victimized by cyber-related crimes. To better understand the risks, impacts, and scale of online exploitation of children, the Federal government developed the National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction (National Strategy). The National Strategy initiated the National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment, a multiagency effort to analyze and address the risks posed by child exploitation, which includes sextortion as one of five key areas. Using insight gained from a survey of more than 1,000 criminal investigators, law enforcement managers, prosecutors, analysts, victim service providers, and U.S. Department of Justice grant recipients, the Federal government conducted a supplemental assessment. Both assessments identified sextortion as the most significant emergent cyber threat to children and youth.

Findings from the National Child Exploitation Threat Assessment revealed concerning trends in the scale and scope of sextortion. Offenders often use a variety of platforms, including social media, chat rooms, gaming platforms, dating apps, and messaging and photo apps, to target, befriend, groom, and coerce hundreds of potential victims. Offenders routinely trick victims by representing themselves online as peers of either the same or the opposite gender. Since 2016, there has been an increase in reported sextortion cases, as well as a shift in whom offenders target and

Click here for full PDF guide.

The Role of School Nurses in School Safety and Emergency Preparedness

School nurses are vital to the safety, well-being, and recovery of students and staff, especially in the face of school violence. As first responders and mental health advocates, they occupy a unique position within the school community, addressing physical, emotional, and logistical needs before, during, and after incidents. Despite their critical contributions to emergency preparedness and recovery efforts, the role of school nurses is often undervalued in policymaking and threat assessment processes.

In an era where acts of violence and school shootings frequently dominate headlines, the threat to student safety is far from abstract. According to the Gun Violence Archive, there were over 300 incidents of gunfire on school grounds in 2023 alone (Gun Violence Archive, 2024). This growing crisis underscores the need for comprehensive, multi-layered prevention strategies. Leveraging the expertise of school nurses is essential to creating safer and more resilient educational environments.

Before an Attack: Prevention and Threat Assessment

School nurses treat much more than scraped knees and fevers. They are responsible for helping promote overall student health and safety. Moreover, they are the first point of contact for students experiencing mental health challenges. Robin Cogan is a Nationally Certified School Nurse with over 20 years in school nursing. She believes more than 50% of nurse visits are related to mental health concerns, with students frequently presenting psychosomatic symptoms such as headaches, stomach aches, and panic attacks (Coglan & Lewiss, 2024). These interactions position school nurses to identify early warning signs of distress or potential violence, including factors like bullying, toxic stress, and intimate partner violence. This role becomes even more critical when considering that 94% of school attackers exhibited warning behaviors prior to their attacks at school, according to the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center (U.S. Secret Service, 2019). These behaviors often include depression, suicidal ideation, social withdrawal, or expressions of anger, all of which may be shared in the nurse's office. School nurses' frequent and trusted interactions with students place them in a frontline position to detect risk factors early and intervene.

Including school nurses in threat assessment teams and as recipients of Courage2Report (C2R) tips could significantly enhance school violence prevention efforts. C2R, Missouri's statewide school violence prevention reporting system, provides a confidential platform for reporting threats. By receiving these notifications, school nurses could proactively address concerns and connect students with appropriate resources, potentially preventing escalation.

During an Attack: Immediate Response

In the event of an attack, school nurses act as independent practitioners and first responders. With limited resources and no team to support them, they must act quickly and decisively. This is an area where it would be beneficial for teachers to be CPR and First Aid certified. Teachers could significantly enhance the safety and preparedness of schools, especially in emergencies. Teachers with CPR and first aid certification can assist nurses in triaging and treating students and staff during crises. Nurses are on the frontline, providing immediate medical attention to the injured, whether that involves treating gunshot wounds, trauma, or other injuries. Tools like "Stop the Bleed" kits and basic medical training can be lifesaving in these moments. National standards for training school nurses in active shooter scenarios are currently lacking. Establishing such standards would ensure that nurses are adequately prepared to manage crises and support students and staff during emergencies.

After an Attack: Addressing Trauma and Recovery

The role of school nurses doesn't end once the immediate danger has passed. For students who are injured, school nurses are key to providing ongoing medical care, including monitoring for infections, changes in health, and ensuring proper recovery. The school nurse may be the only care provider some students see. Beyond physical health, school nurses work alongside counselors, psychologists, and other health professionals to address the emotional and psychological needs of students, staff, and even their families. Trauma following an attack manifests in many forms, such as panic attacks, muscle pain, and sleeplessness (National Association of School Psychologists, 2020). School nurses may help identify students and staff who need additional support and facilitate referrals for therapy or counseling. They provide a safe space for students and staff to process their experiences and begin healing.

Despite their critical role, school nurses are frequently excluded from discussions on school safety policies. This oversight limits their ability to contribute to prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts. Recognizing school nurses not only as caregivers, but as "Chief Wellness Officers", and involving them in policy making would leverage their medical expertise to create safer and more supportive school environments.

While much of the national discourse on school safety focuses on hardening school infrastructure, gun violence research suggests that prevention efforts must extend beyond school walls. One overlooked strategy is promoting safe firearm storage at home. According to studies published in JAMA Pediatrics, an estimated one third of unintentional firearm deaths among children could be prevented through secure storage using gun locks (Grossman et al.,2005). School nurses, who often maintain direct relationships with families, can take a leading role in this area by distributing gun locks, or incorporating gun safety into wellness fairs or parent teacher nights.

Current school security measures tend to concentrate on procedures that are not evidence based, such as school lockdowns for active shooter drills. While 95% of schools conduct active shooter drills, data from the K-12 School Shooting Database reveals that 235 of the last 300 school shootings have occurred outside the building since 2000, with parking lots being common locations (K-12 SSDB, 2025). This discrepancy raises questions about whether resources are being allocated effectively and whether nurses' voices could help guide more balanced policies such as distributing gun locks. School nurses can play a vital role in promoting safe firearm storage practices, which could prevent firearm related accidental injuries, suicides, and deaths. Research has found that approximately 75 % of perpetrators in school-based active shooter situations acquired their firearm from the home of a parent or close relative (National Threat Assessment Center, 2019). Alarmingly, an estimated 4.6 million children live in homes where guns are stored unlocked and loaded (Guyer, 2025). Educating families about safe gun storage should be included in school safety plans.

Addressing the Gaps

According to the National Association of School Nurses, currently, 25% of schools lack a school nurse, and 35% have only part-time coverage (NASN, 2022). This shortage undermines the ability to provide consistent care and support. Investing in full-time school nurses would expand access to mental health resources and enhance crisis prevention efforts.

Moreover, as firearm injuries have now surpassed motor vehicle accidents as the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States, the case for viewing gun violence as a public health issue becomes more urgent (Johns Hopkins, 2022). Framing school safety within this public health context reinforces the need for nurses to be included in all facets of policy making, from threat assessment to community outreach.

School nurses are vital to the safety and well-being of students, yet their potential remains underutilized. By including them in threat assessments, emergency preparedness planning, and programs like Courage2Report, schools can create a more comprehensive approach to safety. Empowering school nurses with the resources, training, and recognition they deserve will not only improve crisis response but also foster a healthier, more secure learning environment for all students.

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In The News 📰

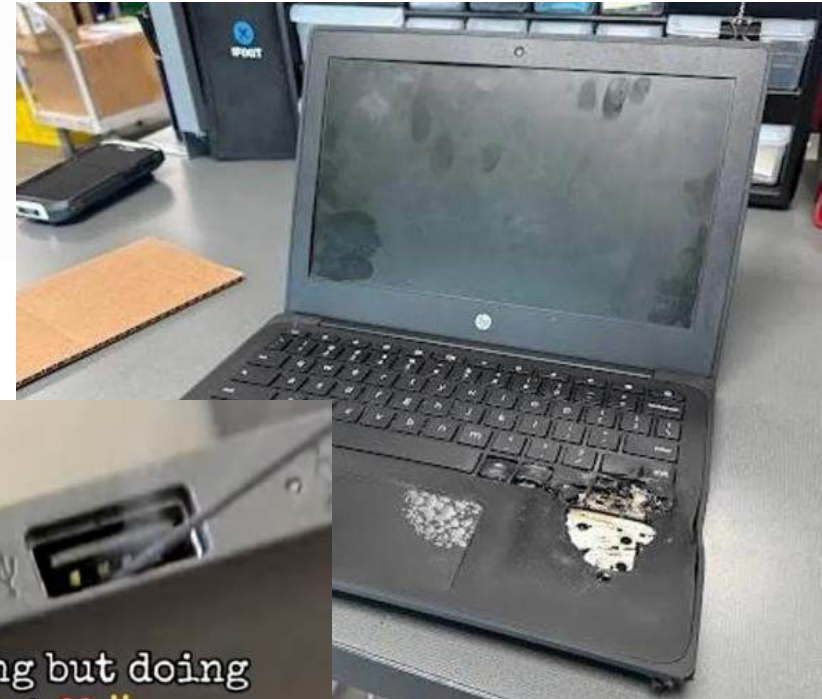## Alarming TikTok Trend Has Kids Intentionally Destroying School Laptops

By <u>Leslie Katz</u>, Senior Contributor.

May 09, 2025, 04:44pm EDT

"School and safety officials across the country are warning parents about the "Chromebook Challenge," a new TikTok trend that sees students damaging their school-issued laptops by deliberately trying to short-circuit the internal circuits — with dangerous results.

Participants in the trend, also called the "Chromebook Smoke Challenge" or "Chromebook Durability Test," record themselves jamming conductive objects such as paper clips, pushpins, aluminum foil and mechanical pencils into laptop charging and USB ports. The resulting short-circuit causes the battery to overheat, potentially leading to fires or explosions and releasing toxic and flammable vapors."

<u>Click here to read the full article.</u>

Students are posting videos of themselves sticking objects into the ports of their school-issued laptops to short-circuit them. TikTok screenshot by Leslie Katz.

This burned laptop was subjected to the "Chromebook Challenge," an unsettling viral social media trend encouraging students to short-circuit their school-issued machines. Photo by Boulder Valley School District.

Handle With Care

Our school practices
Handle With Care
so all children can feel safe and learn.

HANDLE WITH CARE
Protect • Heal • Thrive

For April, Courage2Report received and delivered 47 Handle With Care notifications.

Handle With Care is a program designed to support children who have been exposed to violence or trauma. When such an event occurs, law enforcement or child protection services notify school personnel through a "Handle With Care Notice." This notice ensures that appropriate teachers are informed, enabling them to monitor the child's behavior and academic performance while employing trauma-sensitive strategies. If issues arise, teachers can refer the child to school counselors, who assess the child's needs and recommend further services or interventions. The program emphasizes trauma-sensitive training for all school staff, coordination with caregivers, and specialized therapy spaces within schools. Additionally, a quarterly Defending Childhood Initiative Team meeting evaluates the program's effectiveness through academic, truancy, and disciplinary data, focusing on improving outcomes for affected children.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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