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## **Law enforcement, education leaders, parents announce Chippewa Valley school safety proposal** *Safe Schools, Strong Schools proposal to appear on Nov. 6 ballot*

**CLINTON TOWNSHIP, Mich.** — Local law enforcement, education leaders and parents held a press conference today to announce [Safe Schools, Strong Schools](#), a proposal on the Nov. 6 ballot that would support essential security improvements to keep **Chippewa Valley Schools** students safe before, during and after school.

“Keeping students safe has never been more important, and our top priority at Chippewa Valley Schools is the safety of our students, staff and families,” said **Ron Roberts**, Chippewa Valley Schools superintendent. “While we are doing many things well on school safety, more can and must be done to face continually evolving school threats.”

The Safe Schools, Strong Schools proposal would:

- Fund security enhancements at existing buildings and facilities including **security cameras, replacement of door locks, improved interior door systems** and **more secure entryways**
- **Replace buses** that are the oldest in the fleet, and replace **roofing, plumbing** and **mechanical systems** to keep students safe, warm and dry
- Provide students with **state-of-the-art instructional technology** and increased access to **Career and Technical Education** programs

The Safe Schools, Strong Schools proposal was developed following an independent, building-by-building security analysis of all Chippewa Valley Schools buildings. The analysis included an assessment of physical barriers in every school building, each building’s capability to prevent unauthorized entry, and mechanisms to respond when unauthorized entry occurs.

“We have tried to keep pace with best practices for safety as the nature of school threats continues to evolve,” said **Anthony Wickersham**, Macomb County Sheriff. “Now it’s time to

reassess our game plan and consider essential security enhancements to continue our record of success.”

“I hear from parents and constituents all the time who say we need to do everything possible to enhance school security and stay ahead of emerging threats,” said **Beth Pyden**, Chippewa Valley Schools Board of Education president. “We must continue to adapt to school safety demands to keep our students safe before and after the school bell rings.”

The Safe Schools, Strong Schools proposal would also support state-of-the-art instructional technology, including increased access to Career and Technical Education programs that help students compete for 21<sup>st</sup> century jobs.

“As a teacher, I can tell you first-hand that classroom technology continues to evolve rapidly,” said **David Powell**, a Career and Technical Education teacher at Chippewa Valley High School. “To keep up, our students should have access to cutting-edge instructional technology that gives them real life, on-the-job experience and a head start on careers.”

“The daily headlines make it clear threats to our schools are on the rise, and that concerns me greatly as a parent,” said **Michele Majewski**, mother of two Chippewa Valley High School students. “As a parent, I am encouraged to see our district looking to the future to keep our kids and community safe.”

Learn more about the Safe Schools, Strong Schools proposal at [www.chippewavalleyschools.org/safeschoolsstrongschools](http://www.chippewavalleyschools.org/safeschoolsstrongschools).