

September 8, 2026

RE: September 8 "Bomb Threat" and High School Evacuation/Early Dismissal.

Dear Freedom Area School District Families:

I would like to send an update to families for today's high school evacuation. At approximately 1:00PM today, principal Steve Mott received another "Bomb Threat" email stating that the person reporting was a government official notifying the principal that a bomb was placed in the school. A government official would not contact a school through email for such an important issue; however, we followed a similar high school evacuation model as performed last week. Local authorities were immediately contacted, and law enforcement responded swiftly. Police completed a sweep of the stadium prior to students' arrival at the stadium.

Canine units were also dispatched early to campus, with the high school building swept and cleared without anything found. Since the threat was again sent to the only high school principal with less validity from the threat source, middle school and elementary students were kept in schools, although regular hallway movement was restricted. Also, the responding canine officers permitted students to remain in classrooms while their canines worked through the buildings, which is not always the case depending on the canines involved. This allowed us to keep K-8 students inside the building while allowing the canine units to work through and clear the middle school and elementary school in a similar fashion as performed in the high school. All three buildings were cleared by canine units without anything found.

As I sent in a family message earlier this evening, School Messenger notifications were created for distribution beginning at 1:20PM this afternoon. I was not aware that those notifications were not being delivered until after I attempted to send the second message around 2:00PM. Once we became aware that the notifications were not going out, messages were sent again. Steps will be put in place to prevent this issue from happening again. Please understand, I do not expect that families follow the district's website as a primary resource; however, the website was also posting the School Messenger updates concurrently with the original School Messenger notifications, which will be the continuing practice.

Thank you to those who arrived early yet followed directives from the officers to park in the large parking lots and walk to the stadium/schools for early student pick up. Once most of the pedestrian movement ended on campus, buses, which were staged off-campus, were asked to arrive cautiously onto campus for regular MS/HS dismissal. Remaining high school students and middle school students were dismissed to their regular buses. Buses departed campus about 10 minutes late to make sure no students were missed, and buses returned for a normal elementary school dismissal bus run as well.

Thank you to our law enforcement partners, FASD faculty, staff, students, and families in navigating through these events. Your effort, patience, and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Schools will operate on a regular schedule with normal transportation on Wednesday, September 9, 2026. This letter is being emailed to all families and will be posted to the district's website for reference.

Thank you,

Dr. Jeff Beltz  
Superintendent  
Freedom Area School District