



Members of the Social-Emotional Alliance for the United States in Texas and across the country are heartsick and outraged over the horrific tragedy at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde. Every death by gun violence is a needless death, but when it involves young, innocent children and those who are charged with protecting those children, it is even more difficult to swallow. There simply are no words we can offer that would console these families, their friends, and the community of Uvalde. Our thoughts will be with them in the coming days, weeks, months, and even years as they grieve their losses and deal with the distressing aftermath of this devastating tragedy.

While the losses are indisputably most significant for the families and friends of those closely impacted by this violence, each new school shooting re-traumatizes those schools and communities that have experienced this previously. Their grief, anger, shock, anxiety, and sadness require additional resources for support. It is important to understand that the feelings and emotions we experience are natural reactions to such horrific devastation. It is only natural to feel grief, shock, and anger, and for those impacted by previous acts of violence and trauma, it may trigger thoughts, feelings, and emotions from the past which may be difficult to understand and manage. We are particularly mindful of the community of Santa Fe High School in Santa Fe, TX where the trauma of four years ago remains fresh, and of the community of Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newton, CT, where ten years ago many young lives were taken. Our thoughts are with those families and friends, as well.

While we are united in sorrow and offer our thoughts, prayers, [resources](#), and support to those personally or indirectly affected, we also know that tears must give way to action. We cannot allow a drift in our attention or determination, as happened after other shootings about which we said, "This one will make the difference." Our schools and communities must be places of welcome, support, caring, and kindness. We must reach out to those who seem isolated, lost, disaffected, or troubled. Disrespect, discord, and polarization must not be allowed to thrive. We must place the social-emotional life skills and character of our students at the center of our concern, as this focus will reduce violence in our schools and improve students' academic success. In our roles as citizens, must take legislative and policy action at the local, state, and federal levels.

May the memories of those lost never be forgotten and may we honor their memories with our sustained commitment.

Sincerely,
SEL4US