January 19, 2011

Dear LAUSD Student:

You are probably aware of the recent incident involving the accidental shooting of two students at Gardena High School. On behalf of the Los Angeles Board of Education, I would like to extend my deepest concern and hope for their full recovery.

This shooting was an accident, but that kind of accident can only happen if a weapon is brought to school. Under no circumstances should a weapon of any kind be brought to school. Any student caught in possession of a weapon is subject to immediate suspension and the automatic expulsion process. These actions can have a severe impact on the student, as well as the family.

Schools should be a place where everyone feels safe. Your safety is always important, and so is the safety of every person at school. I ask you to please put safety first and help keep all weapons away from school. School should be a place for learning and having fun, and not a place for fear or violence.

If you are troubled or you feel a need for protection, please talk to a teacher, a counselor, the principal or another adult at school. Ask your parents or guardians to contact the school.

If you know another student has any kind of a weapon in his or her possession, don’t be afraid to tell an adult. You don't have to reveal your name. You can make the report anonymously. Call the office and leave a message. Write a note and leave it for a teacher or administrator, or put it in the suggestion box.

Any weapon on campus puts everyone in danger. Please put your safety first and the safety of your friends, teachers and everyone at school.

Sincerely,

Dr. John E. Deasy
Deputy Superintendent