



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor



**OREGON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**EDUCATION**

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**Colt Gill**

Director of the Oregon Department of Education

May 24, 2019

Keanon Lowe  
Parkrose High School  
12003 NE Shaver Street  
Portland, OR 97220

Dear Mr. Lowe,

On behalf of the entire State Board of Education, I would like to commend you for your quick actions on Friday, May 17, that prevented a tragedy.

By first lunging at the student and grabbing the gun, you provided crucial time for students in the classroom to escape. And when you were able to wrestle the gun away, you defused the situation without serious injuries to anyone.

When I heard the breaking news about someone with a gun on a school campus, I feared the worst and hoped for the best. As a parent and an education leader I can't tell you how relieved we all are that, because of your fast thinking and response, every family was reunited with their child and the story quickly turned from a potential tragedy into one lauding a coach for his life-saving actions.

You wrote on Twitter that you became a security guard and coach to guide students whose shoes you had been in at the same age and that you never thought you'd have to put your life on the line for them. The Parkrose High School community and the whole state owe you a debt of gratitude for taking that ultimate risk. You have ensured that your impact goes far beyond the football field and track.

You also mentioned wanting to be a part of the solution to school gun violence. I would love to have the opportunity to talk with you about that, whether formally at a Board meeting or informally over the phone or a cup of coffee.

I wish you great success in your coaching career and hope this is the last time you ever have to encounter a student with a gun.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony Veliz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "A".

Anthony Veliz

Chair