STAYING SAFE BY WORKING TOGETHER

There is no topic more important than the safety and security of our students and the staff who work with them in our schools. Whether it is prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response or recovery, our district strives to manage every phase of emergency readiness competently and effectively. Our work to strengthen the safety and security measures at Coatesville Area School District is ongoing. We focus on reflective practice and continuous improvement in all that we do.

Safety and Security Measures

Because of our commitment to safety and security preparedness, the Coatesville Area School District has the following structures in place:

All-Hazards Plan- Our All-Hazards Plan provides a framework from which we build a safe and secure learning environment with the ability to respond promptly and appropriately in the event of an emergency. This plan is revisited annually and following critical incidents, either in our district or across the nation.

District-Wide Safety & Security Committee- This committee is comprised of internal stakeholders to review current structures, practices, and procedures and make recommendations to administration and the School Board. This committee also assists with the screening of training provided to staff and students.

District Safety and Security Coordinator/Chief of Police- Working in coordination with our school leaders, including our building principals, the District Safety and Security Coordinator/Chief of Police spearheads efforts focused on promoting the safety of our schools.

Emergency Management Coordination- We are grateful to maintain close working relationships with local law enforcement and emergency management services.

Memorandum of Understanding- Our district maintains agreements with community organizations to access shelter locations should there be a need to evacuate a school beyond our district facilities.

School Police Officer (SPO)- This position is a law enforcement officer who is employed by the school district. This position is responsible for determining whether incidents require police or other social intervention, providing guidance for the District Safe Schools Plan, coordinating fire and other safety drills, and providing safety training for staff. This position also works with school administration in managing school monitor personnel.

General Practices & Procedures

Building Visitor Procedures- We require visitors to present photo identification upon arrival at any of our school buildings. Using School Gate Guardian software, our buildings log visitors and retrieve data from multiple databases to help our employees make informed decisions about who to admit to our schools.

STAYING SAFE BY WORKING TOGETHER

Surveillance Camera Systems- Cameras are positioned in our buildings and school buses and are evaluated regularly and upgraded over time.

Professional Development- We provide teaching and learning opportunities for staff related to things such as, R.V.I. (Response to a Violent Intruder) and Run, Hide, Fight procedures. Training is also provided for steps to be taken in more general critical incident scenarios like severe weather events.

Learning Experiences for Students- Various drills such as fire drills, severe weather drills, and critical incident drills are examples of measures taken by our schools to prepare students for an emergency. We recognize developmental differences among our K-12 students and attempt to tailor those trainings and drills appropriately to prepare students without frightening them.

Open Invitation- We want students to grow up seeing police officers as resources, not as individuals to fear. Therefore, we extend an open invitation to our police partners to visit and walk our buildings and interact with students and staff. We believe this to be critical to the promotion of healthy relationships between the school district and law enforcement communities.

Social & Emotional Supports- The Coatesville Area School District continues to focus on addressing students' social and emotional health, which ties closely to maintaining safe, secure school environments. The framework used for academic and behavioral interventions include tiered systems of supports, school-wide positive behavior plans, anti-bullying initiatives, and protocols for handling complaints.

Administrative Searches- As one facet of providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students, we take proactive measures to prevent illegal materials in our schools. All hallway and gym lockers are property of the school and are loaned to our students. Thus, school officials may search student lockers if the building administrator has a reasonable suspicion that a student's locker contains an article which is in violation of federal, state, or local law, school policies or regulations. Per our school board policy, these searches may include the use of canine units. Any illegal materials found because of a search may be used as evidence against the student in disciplinary, juvenile, or criminal proceedings.

The search of a student's person and personal property will be permitted when there is a reasonable suspicion that the student has on his or her person items in violation of federal, state, or local laws. The designated school official may use additional security devices to aide in the search. Our desire is that students continue to be part of the solution in helping to make our schools safe places to learn by reporting any illegal materials to an adult.