

SANTA FE ISD

SAFETY MATTERS

Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools News

August 2018

As Santa Fe ISD prepares for the first day of school on August 20, the safety and security of students and staff is its highest priority. We also know that as difficult as it is for adults to accept the tragic reality of what our entire school community has lost, it is considerably harder for our students. Mental health and wellness services were expanded throughout the summer and for the 2018-19 school year. These services include social and wellness activities, as well as transition support for all students.

While our work is not complete, the following is an overview of the Safety and Security District safety priorities that will be in place for the 2018-19 school year. The priorities include: Safe and Secure Schools, Policy Changes (training, communication), and Mental Health and Wellness Support Services.

Safe and Secure Schools

- Updating and maintaining the District Crisis Management Plan, including critical incident protocols and an emergency response guide for staff members.
- Increasing the Santa Fe ISD Police Department to a full-time staff of 14 officers, 10 part-time officers, and 10 campus security assistants for the 2018-19 school year. The changes include:
 - Adding security in all schools with the additional Santa Fe ISD Police Department police officers and campus security assistants who will be providing increased security monitoring in hallways, camera monitoring, door entries and student supervision including proper dress code and wearing ID badges.
 - Purchasing new security equipment to fully equip all new officers and security assistants with items that include: weapons, vehicles, safety vests, radios, Taser guns, etc.
- Providing comprehensive Training for SFISD Police Officers: All SFISD police officers receive ongoing ALERRT Level One and Two training; fire arms training; secure weapon and rifle training; participate in drills with all campuses and provide training on District crisis management to all staff.
- Providing Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training for the public and staff: SFISD police officers provide CRASE training for the public, which is designed and

built on the Avoid, Deny, Defend (ADD) strategy developed by ALERRT in 2004. CRASE training provides strategies, guidance and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

- Improving student supervision and training: Organized student supervision is one of the most reliable ways to prevent accidents and injuries. Improved student supervision reduces the risks of incidents on playgrounds, pedestrian and vehicle accidents, medical emergencies, or acts of violence. Effective student supervision and training helps ensure students adhere to prevention procedures such as the student dress code. We will also rely on our parents to assist us in reinforcing school guidelines established to make our schools safer for all.
- Increasing participation in and visibility of the SFISD Police Department Parent on Patrol Squad (POPS) program. POPS is a volunteer program designed to involve parents, grandparents and other relatives, to volunteer their time to assist school district police officers on their respective SFISD campuses.
- The SFISD Police Department regularly trains all staff and students in safety procedures and drills for major crisis events such as an active shooter incident, fire or tornado.
- The SFISD Police have expanded Tribal Tips, which is an anonymous reporting system, and “if you see something, say something.” Students and parents are invited to take part in keeping our schools safe by reporting any incidents or suspicious activity through the system which can be found on the police department’s website or by using a bar code reader to immediately access the [website](#).
- Redesigning and modifying the High School: Options are in place for reconstruction and renovation of identified areas of the high school.
- Securing access to schools: Secured entrances on all campuses and within all departments ensures that visitors must check in with a receptionist and show proof of identity. All visitors are processed through the Raptor school security system before they gain entrance for meetings, campus visits, etc. Improved door locks and reconfigured alarm systems include panic buttons in classrooms. Added perimeter fencing is in place at elementary schools.
- Implementing exterior electronic door-locking alarm notification systems at all schools.
- Developing and training Threat Assessment Teams as part of a comprehensive targeted prevention plan that will be in place at all Santa Fe ISD schools for the school year. The teams will work in conjunction with the SFISD Police Department to identify students with concerns, assess their risk and identify intervention strategies to provide the needed assistance to the students.
- Reviewing the use of social media monitoring software and applications to report suspected illegal activities or concerns that involve any of our schools.

Policy Changes (training, communication)

- Continuously enforcing all safety protocols for routine school operations, including dress code and requiring students and staff to wear identification badges while on campus at all times. Visitors are required to wear a school or District form of identification at all times while on campus during the school day.

- Providing routine and ongoing staff training and school audits to include a review of compliance with our student code of conduct and discipline policies.
- Improving District Communications and Emergency Management Protocols for the 2018-19 school year by implementing SMS text for additional emergency safety communications to School Messenger and Skyward notification services, used by the nation's leading school systems to connect with parents, students and staff with features that also include: voice, email and social media.
- Providing video coverage following each of our Board Meetings for increased communications and transparency.
- Providing a new District Emergency Management Protocols tab on the Emergency Safety Information webpage to provide emergency safety communications protocols. Previously, there was only a School Closing Procedures tab, due to inclement weather or hazardous driving conditions. The Emergency Safety Information icon is located on the right toolbar on the SFISD homepage.
- Requiring all Santa Fe ISD employees and substitutes to complete the Safe Schools training system for all federal, state and local mandated employee compliance training before school starts. The sessions in this training include: Active Shooter, Bullying Recognition and Response, Crisis Response and Recovery, and others. Training is available in both English and Spanish for all employees.
- Providing the Stop the Bleed safety training and resources to teachers, coaches and nurses in our schools this summer. Stop the Bleed is a Homeland Security national awareness campaign intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives.
- Implementing Safety and Security Awareness Communication plan to share safety reminders and the intentional safety focus as part of the day-to-day operations and culture of SFISD schools. The plan is dynamic and updates and improvements will be made to the plan throughout the school year according to the needs of SFISD students, staff and parents.
- Continue to regularly publish news releases, superintendent messages and announcements that are shared in a variety of ways to include staff communications, School Messenger parent messages, the Santa Fe ISD website, Santa Fe Interactive Web Portal (www.santafeupdates.com) and on social channels (2,842 Twitter followers and more than 7,497 Facebook users). The social media channels provide the District an opportunity to share fresh content in an easily-sharable format that includes photos and videos. The Interactive Web Portal provides an opportunity for parents and community members to provide feedback and ask Santa Fe ISD questions at their own convenience.

Mental Health and Wellness Support Services

- As teachers and staff return to school they will be receiving multiple training sessions in trauma and mental health first aid, as well as mental health for self-care, Stop the Bleed first aid training, developing healthy relationships (anti-bullying) and others.

- Adding four new trauma specific counselors: As a result of a state grant, SFISD added four additional counselors to the high school staff in order to focus on trauma specific behavioral and mental health concerns. School counselors should have more time to devote to the mental health needs of students. In addition to academic counseling, there is a need to ensure counselors are trained and available to focus on behavioral and mental health issues, specific to trauma and recovery.
- Adding the Safe School Ambassador® Program to prevent and stop emotional and physical bullying and improve school climate, as well as adding the Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) program as a way for our schools to encourage good behavior and improve school safety.
- Coordinating Mental Health Response efforts intended to support and encourage the transformation of the May 18, 2018, traumatic experience into a process of rebuilding for the individuals, families, school district, and the Santa Fe community.
- Opening and supporting the Santa Fe Strong Resiliency Center, a partnership of the City of Santa Fe, the Gulf Coast Center, the Texas Children’s Trauma and Grief Center and others in the Santa Fe community, to provide mental health services to those impacted by the events of May 18 at no cost to those who take advantage of the services.

Reminder: The Resiliency Center

The Resiliency Center serves as a free long-term resource for healing the Santa Fe community. The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the incident. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us

Questions?

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: santafeupdates.com/contact-us