

# SCHOOL SAFETY: A **SHARED** RESPONSIBILITY



Woodstown- Pilesgrove Regional School District  
November 15, 2018

## School Safety Presentation

# PRESENTATION POINTS OF INTEREST

Safety Audit

Safety Planning

Overview of Drills

Climate and Culture

Communication

Board of Education Policy

Questions and Answers





# Introduction

*Thank you for your interest in School Safety. The Woodstown-Pilesgrove Regional School District is committed to providing as safe and secure a learning environment as possible for our students and staff. The District complies with all Department of Education regulations and state law regarding security measures. Emergency Planning is reviewed annually with local, county and state emergency responders. NJ mandated drills are conducted and training provided to staff and students in current best practice for security actions.*

# School Safety Audit



- The WPRSD underwent an independent School Safety Audit in April 2018
- The goal of the Audit was to optimize our resources and review opportunities for improvement
- Audit recommendations have been reviewed by the administrative team and are currently in the implementation phase

# School Entrance Security Enhancements

- Audit Recommendation:
  - Single Points of Entry
  - Stronger visitor management
  - Reduce foot traffic during school hours
  - Staff monitoring of arrival and dismissal times (training)
  
  - Reinforced vestibules
  - Panic buttons
  
  - Source:  
<https://campussafetyconference.com/about/event-news/8-ways-to-improve-school-entrance-security>

# Security Audit Ideas: School Entrance



# School Safety Audit Recommendations

- The District now utilizes parking decals to monitor parked cars in our school lots
- Student arrival and dismissal entrances and exits have been reduced in number and are fully staffed
- Staff ID badges are to be worn
- Building signage ordered
- EOP has been made into flip-chart form for staff ease of use
- Classroom doors remain locked (in case of emergent lockdown)
- Training in updated “Run-Hide-Fight” protocols has been completed
- Board of Education Policy and Regulation Update is underway

The logo features the text "SAFE SECURE SCHOOLS" in white, bold, sans-serif font on a black background. To the right of the text is a photograph of a red apple sitting on a stack of books.

SAFE SECURE  
SCHOOLS

# School Safety Planning

- The District's School Safety and Security Coordinator holds quarterly meetings with community partners including the Office of Emergency Management, Woodstown Police Department, NJ State Police, County Prosecutor's Office, School Administrators, Teachers and Parent Representatives
- The District's School Safety and Security Coordinator updates the District Emergency Operations Plan annually



# Future Plans

- Upgrading Internal Communication
  - RFP for Radio Repeater
  - Investigate cost of Flashing Light system for high-noise/outside areas
- Upgrading our security cameras
  - Purchase **more** and **clearer** cameras.
  - Security, technology and administrators have mapped our schools and the surrounding complex for most effective placement



# N.J. Mandated Drill Requirements

- Our drills follow an Incident Command Structure developed in conjunction with FEMA and NJ Homeland Security.
- One fire drill and one security drill a month
- Schools are required to hold a minimum of two of each of the following security drills annually:
  - Lockdown/ Active shooter
  - Evacuation (non-fire)
  - Bomb threat

# Lockdown

- Lockdown is utilized in the event of an intruder or criminal act
- Announcement is made for immediate lockdown
- All building participants go to a specified locale in the room and lock doors, secure windows
- Teachers and staff have been trained this fall in updated lockdown protocols

# Shelter in Place

- Shelter in place is used when there is a need to minimize traffic in a hallway
- It can be used when a spill occurs
- It is used in a medical emergency
- It can be utilized if a locker-check is needed  
(School administrators, not police, check lockers)
- The difference between a lockdown and shelter in place is that class continues as usual during a shelter in place

# Evacuation

- Evacuation is the method utilized to exit the building during an emergency event
- It is similar to a fire evacuation, but there is an alternate destination
- Our District Emergency Plans have provisions for relocation of students if needed
- Our District Emergency Plans have provisions for reunification of students with their parents if needed

# One Important Thought From A Prominent NJ Educational Leader



**Tracey Severns** @docseverns · Mar 21



For all those concerned about school safety, I have one request. For every 1 thing you do to improve how you protect your school from the outside, do at least 2 things to improve how you foster positive, caring relationships inside your school.  
[#studentvoice](#) [@DisruptedTv](#)



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# WPRSD Climate Initiatives

- Our schools will continue to focus on social emotional support of our students, as well as their interests
- Baseline Spring Climate Survey Data will be reviewed
- Student mentoring will continue
- Parent wellness/communication initiatives
- Civil Rights Audit 2018
- WMS is participating in the Rutgers School Climate Initiative

# Communication

- Should an incident occur, the District will utilize Remind and our Global Communication System to email and send voice messages when it is safe and prudent to do so
- The district will attempt to provide the general nature of the event and the current response
- Specifics of the District's response will remain confidential to avoid exposing information that may reduce the safety and security of our students and staff.
- Incident Reporting is encouraged via face-to-face, telephone, email, text and our STOPit app.





# Question: Locking Doors in Lockdown

- Q: It seems that a common theme during lockdown drills is that the individual classrooms are locked from the hallway causing the teachers to possibly put themselves in harms way. Can the teachers throughout the district lock their classrooms from the inside?
- *A: Throughout the district, we require that doors remain locked. A magnetic strip or set of keys (given to substitutes for the day of their assignment) is in use to ensure quick locking from the inside of the classroom.*

# Question: Threat Assessment

- Q: If a threat is made by a student(s), it is very concerning. Are threats taken seriously and are the student(s) expelled?
- *A: Each situation is taken very seriously, and is evaluated on an individual basis.*
- *A: We adhere to a strict procedure should a threat situation occur. (See next slide)*

# Question: Threat Assessment

- Threat Assessment Procedure:
  - Threat reported to administration
  - Threat assessment conducted
  - Police Report filed/Federal Database Report filed
  - Parent informed
  - Discipline administered
  - Psychiatric clearance requested
  - Student may return only if clearance is garnered
  - Possible medical clearance requested
  - Counseling
  - Mentoring

# Additional Questions and Answers



Thank you!

