

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.:	705
Section:	PROPERTY
Title:	SAFETY AND SECURITY
Date Adopted:	5/20/19
Date Last Revised:	12/18/23

705 SAFETY AND SECURITY

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the Board’s commitment and multi-faceted approach towards proactively ensuring the safety, security, and well-being of all District students, staff, other stakeholders in the school community, and property. Underlying this approach is the Board’s commitment to cultivating a climate of inclusivity and belonging for all students, families, and staff, which prioritizes our goal of student safety and security while balancing the rights and dignity of each and every student to the greatest extent possible. Please see Policy and Administrative Regulation 101 - Equity for more detail regarding the District’s approach.

The Board directs the Superintendent or designee to implement a District-wide safety program that promotes the safety and security of all students, staff, other stakeholders in the school community, and property.

The Superintendent or designee shall make reports and recommendations to the Board on an as-needed basis, or when required by law, regarding current safety and security practices and any strategies or resources needed to better or more comprehensively implement this Policy and the accompanying Administrative Regulation.

The Superintendent or designee shall post rules for safety and the prevention of accidents in the workplace, and shall instruct all employees on the appropriate procedure through which to report an accident or injury at work.

The District-wide safety program developed, memorialized, and implemented by the Superintendent or designee(s) shall be designed to align with and support implementation of the District’s Strategic Plan.

The District-wide safety program shall be developed, supported, and reviewed on an ongoing basis by internal and external stakeholders to ensure continued alignment with the District’s Strategic Plan and best practices.

Threats to the safety or security of students, staff, or District property shall be reported and responded to promptly in accordance with the applicable comprehensive emergency plan and as instructed by the Superintendent or designee.

The District-wide safety program shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Designation of a school administrator as the District’s Safety and Security Coordinator, as

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required by applicable law;

- Maintenance and annual review of comprehensive emergency plans for each school building and the District’s administration building;
- Continued existence of a District-wide safety committee and school-based safety committees in each school that meet on a regular basis;
- Continued existence of a District-wide student wellness committee that meets on a regular basis;
- Creation of a District-level threat assessment committee;
- Employment of school safety personnel;
- Safety-related student programming and services;
- Protection systems and security of District property;
- Advanced preparation for emergency situations through routine drills and other age-appropriate instruction on a variety of emergency situations that could arise in the school setting;
- Ongoing training and professional development of staff to reinforce emergency response procedures and expectations, including, but not limited to, school safety and security training mandated by law;
- Procedures for parents/guardians to follow in the event of an emergency situation, as well as a corresponding notification system;
- Inclement weather procedures and a corresponding notification system; and
- Ongoing partnership and collaboration with local law enforcement, the fire department, and other emergency management organizations.

The Board authorizes the installation and use of video and audio recording devices in and on District facilities and on District transportation. The purposes of such recording devices are to

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encourage safe and appropriate behavior in school facilities, safeguard people and District property, and investigate and respond to misconduct.

Legal References:

24 P.S. Sec. 1309-B

24 P.S. Sec. 1310-B

24 P.S. Sec. 1302.1-A

24 P.S. Sec. 1517

24 P.S. Sec. 1518

Board Policy 245, *Suicide Prevention and Self-Harming Behavior*

Board Policy 254, *Student Wellness*

Board Policy 810, *Transportation*