

Safety and Security Measures

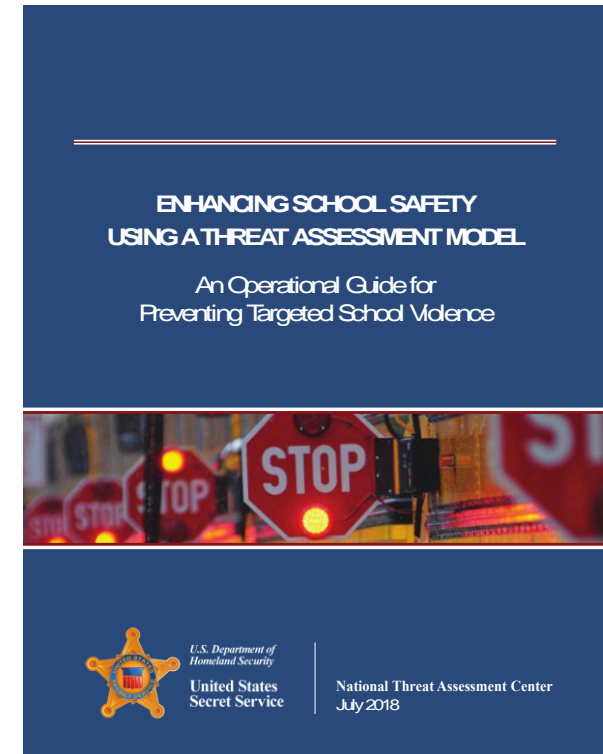
Hamden High School

The Hamden District Safety Planning Team

- Chartered in September, 2014. 51 meetings on record since then.
- Engages in safety and security planning for the district including:
 - executing Board of Education Safety and Security policies;
 - annually reviewing and updated the HPS Emergency Operations Plan, school site safety plans, and all related procedures within the District;
 - reviewing biennial School Hazard Surveys to identify needs;
 - supervising safety and security training including Tabletop emergency exercises (occurred annually at 5 schools prior to the pandemic), required monthly emergency drills, ALICE training, and after-action assessments of incidents that have occurred;
 - Identifying and applying for appropriate safety and security grants;
 - Vetting safety products and vetting partnerships with outside agencies and vendors.
- DSPT membership includes Hamden Town, Public Schools, Police, and Fire Department leadership and such operational personnel (First Student Location Manager and the Director, QVHD) as needed to ensure effective planning and oversight.

Safety Assessment and Intervention

- From the “K-12 School Security: A Guide for Preventing and Protecting Against Gun Violence” (U.S. DHS, 2018): “DHS recognizes that physical protection measures only go so far when it comes to preventing an active shooter incident. Social issues such as mental health, bullying, and criminal profiling play a critical role in the prevention of gun violence in schools. Potential warning signs are not always the result of a direct threat—more often, there is observable conduct which sends up a red flag, so to speak. The importance of detecting and addressing concerning behavior, thoughts, or statements cannot be overstated. In fact, preventing violence by detecting and addressing these red flags is more effective than any physical security measure.”
- The Connecticut Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security (DEMHS) references the U.S. Secret Service/National Threat Assessment Center’s “Enhancing School safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence” (2018).
 - Step one references establishing a “multi-disciplinary Threat Assessment Team”. HPS staff has been trained in Safety Assessment and Intervention (SAI) brought to us through a partnership with Sandy Hook Promise. SAI teams are present in every school.
 - The Guide references the importance of positive school climate. Our Sandy Hook Promise collaborative programs “Start With Hello” and “Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE Promise) clubs” and the “Say Something-Anonymous Reporting System (SS-ARS)” are in place at HMS and HHS.



SEL Measures at Hamden High School

- Choose Love: - Choose Love For Schools teaches skills and concepts that are grounded in and support Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), addressing the 5 Core Competencies as defined by CASEL (Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, and Responsible Decision-Making Skills).
- Connections - Using advisory (Connections) to teach SEL curriculum.
- Hamden Youth Connections – Partnership with Hamden Youth Connections, providing resources of skilled volunteer professionals, sharing a path through mentorship, teaching life and career skills, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.
- PPT/504 Coordinator – Position created and filled to free up mental health professionals for student support.
- Guidance Department Chair – Position created and filled to allow guidance counselors the ability to support students directly.
- Create School Climate and Culture Specialist- Responsible for handling lower level disciplinary issues that may arise, developing mentoring programs, engaging and interacting with community-based organizations.
- Additional Substitute Assistant Principal - Support the principal in the administrative operation of a school. Manage student behavioral issues and supervise or arrange for supervision of student activities both during and after school hours.

Security Measures at Hamden High School

- Lunch Waves - Reduced the number of students and the amount idle time in each lunch wave.
- Service and Security Consultant – Engage the services of a security consultant to provide research based advice to improve the overall security of Hamden High School.
- School Resource Officer – Addition of a 1 more SRO
- In-School Suspension Coordinator – Position would free up teachers(8) for reassignment to other duty/supervision to other critical areas of the building.
- Metal Detector Screening - Use metal detectors as primary screening for individuals.
- Additional Security Guards – 3 additional security guards added since the beginning of the year. Increase in casual guards to fill absences.
- Supervisor of Security – This position would improve coherence and provide focus to leading all aspects of security throughout the district.
- Video Observation Room - Continuous real-time monitoring – IP remote surveillance allows authorized employees to monitor critical areas continuously, 24/7 in real-time from almost anywhere.