

June 2, 2022

Dear Families and Staff of GPS:

Unfortunately, we know all too well about the horrific and senseless recent events happening around our country, and in schools specifically. It heightens all of our concerns and questions what is being done to stop this from happening not only in those places, but in our schools as well.

When you have questions or concerns about the safety of your children, we strongly encourage you to reach out to your school principal. Principals know their buildings and the safety and security procedures the best, therefore, they should be your main source of information. They will be more than happy to address concerns as quickly as possible.

The District's hazard safety and security plan is extensive. It was created and is implemented and overseen by our director of safety and security, while coordinating with our local first responders. By law, the plan must be coordinated with local safety officials. The administration in each building has very specific procedures that are compliant with the State of Connecticut for a lockdown, securing the building, an evacuation, general safety issues, and extreme weather occurrences.

There are many aspects of our safety plans which are not available to the public. This approach is taken to increase the safety of our schools. Greenwich Public Schools does not announce all of the safety mechanisms or procedures, as that would be letting individuals know how to circumvent our safety procedures. What we can share is the following:

Annual Drills

Over the course of a single school year, each building will hold eight mandatory fire drills, two lockdown drills, and one secure the building. Administration is regularly reminded about securing and monitoring all entryways. Doors should never be propped open.

Greenwich Police Department Support

The Greenwich Police Department is on site during drills to make sure that administrators and police are well coordinated and have practiced together. In addition, the GPD utilizes empty GPS school buildings during the summer to run mock intruder drills making sure that their training is at the highest level possible. The GPD is trained to immediately enter a building should there be an emergency. They are trained and resourced to deal with active threats and to render emergency care..

Cameras

GPS has invested in a robust camera system, which can assist in a crisis to locate any individual who should try to enter a building, or should be inside one of our buildings. This is an area we want to continue with enhancements.

Doors

GPS utilizes a key-swipe entry system to maintain locked doors around the perimeter of the buildings. Only staff have access to this system which directs the points of entry for students and visitors to the building.

Alert System

Technology is enhanced for automated notifications directly to the District, fire department, and police department should there be an emergency. All classrooms are equipped with telephones.

Daily Monitoring

Each school has a designated liaison from the Greenwich Police Department in order to address specific concerns or issues. GPD patrol officers frequently visit our campuses and have 24/7 access to all of our buildings. They perform checks inside and outside of our buildings.

Greenwich High School

GHS accounts for half of our district enrollment, with a large and expansive campus. There are 10 security staff members located onsite every day and two Greenwich Police Officers (commonly known as School Resource Officers) assigned to GHS.

We constantly monitor our safety and security procedures and we will continue to make improvements as an on-going effort to stay current in our protocols. GPS has strong partnerships with our local first responders, with many having family members in our school system.

At a time of great concern, please go directly to school administration for answers, and as the national campaign tells us, "If You See Something, Say Something."

If you have additional questions or concerns, please [fill out this form](#) and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Dr. Toni Jones
Superintendent of Schools