

Los Alamitos Unified School District
District Safety Update

October 11, 2022

FORWARD FOCUSED

Los Alamitos Unified School District



ORANGE COUNTY

GRAND JURY REPORT 2017-2018

SAFER SCHOOLS - WHAT CAN WE DO?



CONTROLLING SCHOOL ACCESS

“Access control to school campuses and buildings is a top concern for Orange County school officials.”

- Establish one main entrance with identifying signage



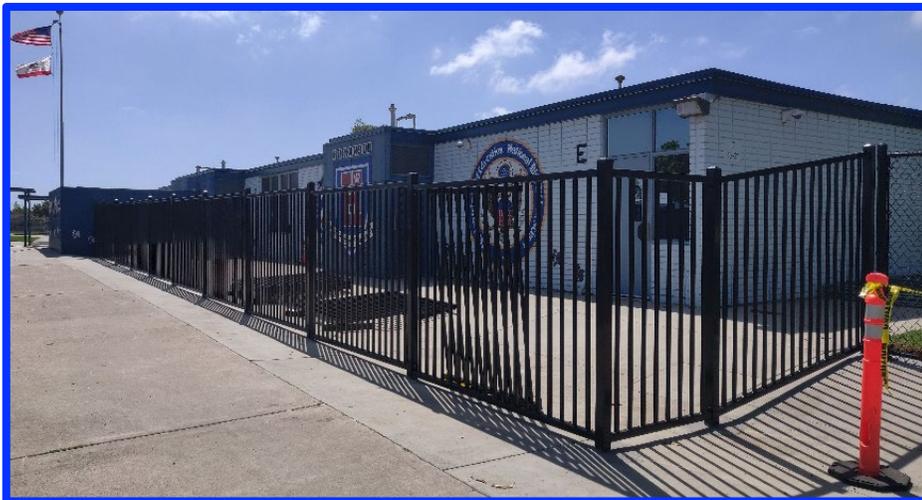
- Create and use strict visitor sign-in, sign-out, and escort procedures



FENCING

“...the fencing at a school’s property line provides the school’s first line of defense against violence or intrusion.”

- Multiple needs identified in 2018
- All sites are closed campuses and now have perimeter fencing
- Ongoing fencing/gate updates as needs are identified



STAFF AND STUDENT **IDENTIFICATION BADGES**

“The use of visible staff badges on campus affirms that the individual belongs there and shows an outsider to be out of place.”



- All staff members receive photo identification badges
- All secondary students receive photo identification badges
- Raptor Visitor Badges include photo



EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS

“The district should have an infrastructure in place to create consistent, effective and coordinated communications across each school.”

Emergency Communication



- I.P. telephone system allows for all-call announcements
- ParentSquare communication with parents/community (via phone, email, text)
- Site radios for internal site communication
- Two-way radios for District-wide communication



WINDOWS

“...if security window film is properly installed, it can delay a perpetrator long enough to foil their plans or give those inside precious time to find a way to remain safe.”

- Mylar window film installed at all sites
- Mylar is anti-shatter or security film
- Reduces the projectile hazard of flying glass fragments
- Prevents intruder from breaking glass and entering or reaching in and opening a door



LOCKS, KEYS AND SMART CARDS

“It is imperative that classroom doors can be locked from the inside without exiting the room.”



- Lock Bloks at all sites
- I.D. Badges open certain exterior gates and doors
- Upgrades to connecting classrooms with interior doors



SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS

“Cameras used for surveillance can reinforce security options for schools.”



- Currently at LAHS, McGaugh, and Hopkinson
- Site walks completed at all sites
- Working with suppliers and contractors to begin installation of surveillance cameras at remaining sites



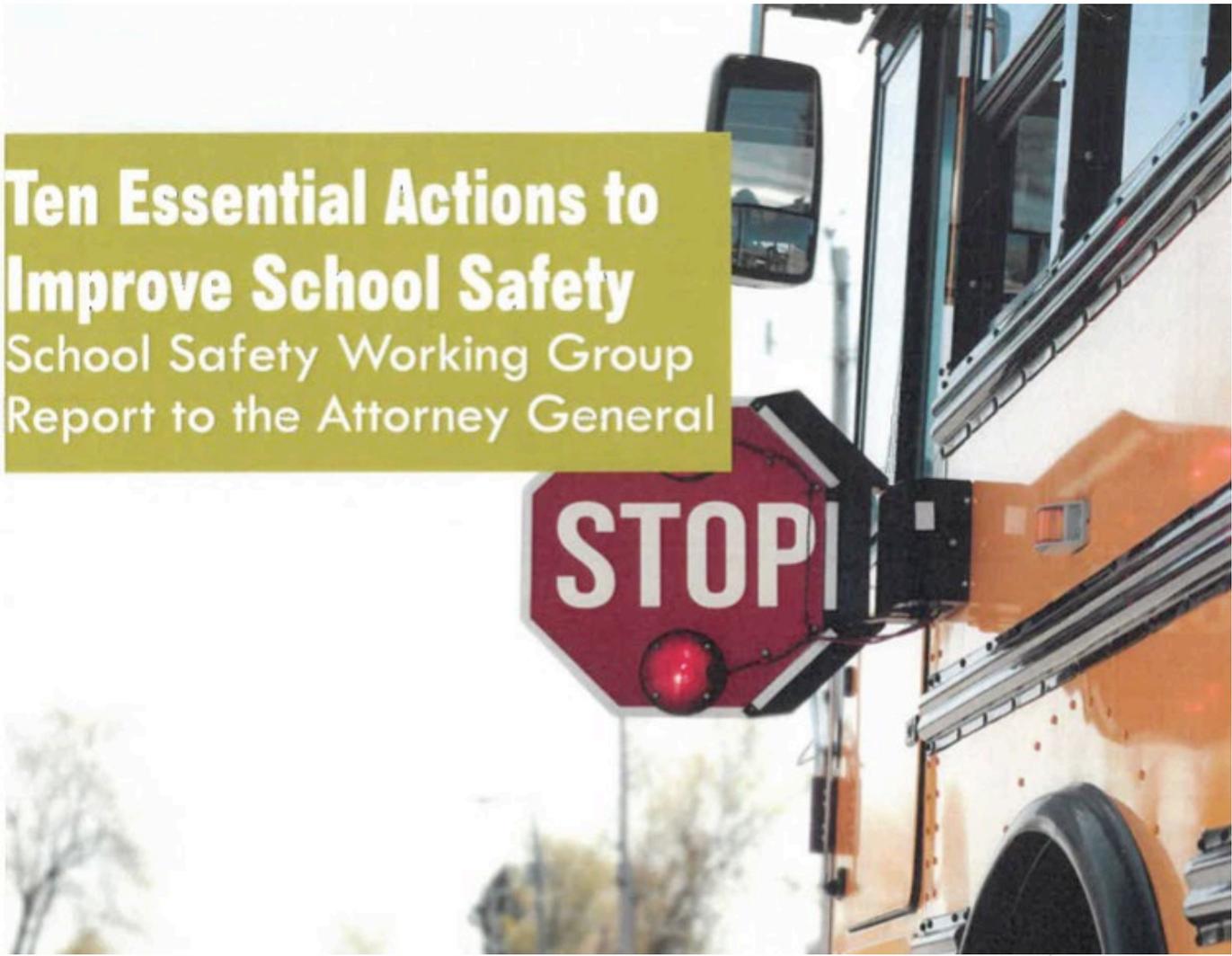
ADDITIONAL **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Metal Detectors - *“Many groups say the use of metal detectors can have a negative effect on the school environment...and may not be a priority compared to other needs.”*
- Audit Tools - *“The use of an audit tool could provide a snapshot of a school’s safety areas needing improvement as well as be a resource for the development of the school safety plan.”*
- Wi-Fi Devices/Mobile Apps - *“There are available cell phone apps which allow for specific responses to emergency situations.”*



NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY REPORT **TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL**

**Ten Essential Actions to
Improve School Safety**
School Safety Working Group
Report to the Attorney General



CONTRIBUTORS

The working group comprised the following representatives of national law enforcement organizations:

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**Every member of . . . the School Safety Working
Group would much rather prevent a shooting long
before an attacker arrives on campus.**



Actions in Brief

The 10 actions described in this publication represent measures that can be taken to ensure school communities' mental and emotional security as well as their physical safety, as shown in table 1.

Table 1. Ten essential actions for physical and emotional safety of schools

Physical safety	Emotional security
1. Comprehensive school safety assessment	2. School climate
3. Campus, building, and classroom security	4. Anonymous reporting systems
5. Coordination with first responders	6. Behavior threat assessment and management
7. School-based law enforcement	8. Mental health resources
9. Drills	10. Social media monitoring

Each of these actions will be discussed in more detail in the pages that follow.



I. COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL SAFETY ASSESSMENT

(Physical Safety)

“The foundation for all school safety and security planning and operations is a comprehensive risk assessment.”

- Comprehensive Safe School Plans at all sites updated yearly
- Ongoing assessments and needs identified
- Working with Orange County Intelligence Assessment Center (OCIAC) to conduct site safety assessments



2. SCHOOL CLIMATE

(Emotional Security)

“...fostering a culture of connectedness is an important aspect of school safety.”

District Board Goal #2 - *Cultivate a thriving and safe culture that ensures a caring, inclusive, equitable, and student-centered environment.*

- “Start With Hello” / Greeting Students at the Door/Parking Lot
- Multitude of School Clubs
- P.E.A.C.E. Week, Red Ribbon Week, Student Recognition Activities, Griffins With a Mission (G.W.A.M.)
- ASB, Student Leadership, Ambassadors
- Mentoring Programs
- Social Emotional Learning Curriculum
- WellSpaces
- Four A’s



3. CAMPUS, BUILDING, AND CLASSROOM SECURITY

(Physical Safety)

“The Federal Commission acknowledges that the protective measures implemented will vary based on the characteristics of the site, location, resources, and personnel available...”

- ✓ Building and classroom numbering systems for clearly identifying locations
- ✓ Classroom doors that can be locked from the inside
- ✓ Ability to prevent an assailant from seeing into classrooms
- ✓ Control access to campus
- ✓ Working with suppliers and contractors to begin installation of surveillance cameras at remaining sites



4. ANONYMOUS REPORTING SYSTEMS *(Emotional Security)*

“Anonymous reporting systems have been shown to be effective in identifying and communicating potential targeted violence in schools...”

- “Say Something” implemented at secondary schools (text, online, app, telephone)
- All secondary students trained on how when and how to submit tips
- Site teams trained to handle tips
- Multiple tips successfully handled this year
- Completely anonymous



5. COORDINATION WITH FIRST RESPONDERS

(Physical Safety)

“Advanced planning and joint training are essential to ensure the response is rapid and effective...”

- Regular meetings with Seal Beach and Los Alamitos Police Departments
- District Safety and Wellness Meetings include first responders
- Seal Beach PD regularly conducts Active Shooter Incident drills at McGaugh
- **Tabletop Discussion Exercise scheduled with OC Sheriff and Weaver, Lee, Hopkinson, and Rossmoor**
- **Active Shooter Incident drill scheduled with Los Al PD**



6. BEHAVIOR THREAT ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT TEAM

(Emotional Security)

“...threat assessment programs are beneficial in (among other things) preventing mass casualty attacks.”

- Staff trained at each school to conduct safety, threat, and risk assessments
- Partnership with Orange County Department of Education:
 - Crisis Response Network, Crisis Assessment Team (C.A.T.) and Regional Mental Health Coordinator
- Increased School Psychologists and Mental Health Counselors



7. SCHOOL-BASED LAW ENFORCEMENT

(Physical Safety)

“The ability of specially selected and trained SROs to establish trust relationships with students has been demonstrated to prevent school shootings.”



- Seal Beach PD active at McGaugh (Officer Kendra Owen)
- Deputy Maggie Gardner from OC Sheriff assigned to schools in Rossmoor
- **School Resource Officer Jody Brucki to begin at LAHS in near future**



8. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

(Emotional Security)

“This continuum should include...an adequate number of school-employed mental health professionals who are trained to provide services in the learning environment.”

- Mental Health Counselors for all sites
- School Psychologists for all sites
- Counselors for military families at McGaugh and Middle Schools
- WellSpaces
- Monthly Wellness/Mental Health Themes
- CareSolace online resource
- Parent Education Opportunities



S. DRILLS

(Physical Safety)

“...recommends that schools establish and practice lockdown and evacuation procedures, including where students should go during different types of emergencies.”

- Monthly drills at all sites
- Great California Shakeout annually
- Violent Intruder Response Training and Refresher courses for all staff
- Law Enforcement-Conducting Active Shooter Incident drills in the near future



10. SOCIAL MEDIA MONITORING

(Emotional Security)

“Defensive social media monitoring systems...provide constant online scanning of messages to identify threats and at-risk behavior including cyberbullying.”



- SysCloud Alerts
- Securly Alerts
- Cyber Safety Parent Education Opportunities
- Say Something Anonymous Reporting System



***SAFETY IS EVERYBODY'S
RESPONSIBILITY!***

QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!

FORWARD FOCUSED

Los Alamitos Unified School District

