



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools

"WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST"

# **GJPS**

## **SAFETY & SECURITY MEASURES**

Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools  
160 South Hamilton Road  
Gahanna, Ohio 43230

[www.GahannaSchools.org](http://www.GahannaSchools.org)  
(614) 471-7065



Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools  
"WHERE STUDENTS COME FIRST"

The health and safety of our school community is a high priority for everyone at Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools. While our security plans are continually evolving, here are some measures we are taking to address safety and security in our schools.



## FACILITIES & OPERATIONS

### EMERGENCY OPERATION PROCEDURES

Working with law enforcement agencies and first responders, we have developed and continue to revise, implement, and regularly practice emergency operation procedures. To keep staff and students safe, we do not share these plans publicly, but they are submitted, reviewed and approved annually.

### CHECK-IN PROCEDURES

We recently upgraded our visitor management system in all school buildings so that each visitor must sign in and present a form of identification that is scanned and checked against a national database before entry is permitted.

### SECURE ENTRANCES

While a few of our buildings will undergo construction to update main entrance security features this summer, most of our buildings currently have access into the main office rather than open access to the school upon entry.

There are currently camera systems in every building throughout the district and in all of our GJPS buses. Our buildings are equipped with secure door badge entry systems to prevent door propping and allow students to enter the building swiftly in case of an outdoor emergency.

### UPDATED VOLUNTEER PROCEDURES

To increase safety and security protocols, all GJPS volunteers who may have the potential to interact with students in an unsupervised setting or may have access to confidential information will be required to complete an online application that includes a background check. The district will provide the background checks at no cost to the volunteer.



## STAFFING & SUPPORT

### ADDITIONAL STAFF

GJPS has recently increased staffing to provide additional support in our schools at all levels.

#### 3 Assistant Principals

Assists in the safety and welfare of students and staff.

#### 5 Campus Supervisors

Provides additional supervision to students, staff, and grounds operations.

#### 3 School Resource Officers

Maintains a first line of defense against violence, and fosters communication and partnerships between educators, law enforcement, students and families.

#### 1 Dean of Students

Provides student supervision and interventions to students experiencing problems in discipline and attendance at GLHS.

#### 1 Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA)

Provides support, collaboration and training to all educational professionals and develops and implements effective, function-based Behavior Intervention Plans.





## PROGRAMS & PROTOCOLS

### A.L.I.C.E.

In the event of an active shooter, the minutes that pass while waiting for police to respond are crucial. To ensure schools are prepared to proactively handle the threat of an intruder or active shooter, all principals and teachers have been trained in *ALICE*.

#### ALERT

Report that a threat exists.

#### LOCKDOWN

Follow GJPS lockdown procedures.

#### INFORM

Communicate real-time information using all available technology.

#### COUNTER

Create noise, movement and distraction with the intent of interrupting the intruder or allowing time to escape.

#### EVACUATE

Get out of the building.

### RISK ASSESSMENT

We have a safety protocol in place that our mental health team follows when students make threats that could impact the health and safety of themselves or others.

This risk assessment involves an in-depth analysis of the situation, contact with families, and appropriate support to address the concern.



### Safe School Helpline

**“If you see something, say something.”**

One of our most important resources is the strong relationship with our students, families, staff and GJPS community. As a result, GJPS utilizes the Safe School Helpline to encourage our community to anonymously report anything that threatens the safety of our students, staff or schools.

1-800-418-6423 ext. 359

[Safe School Helpline Information and FAQs](#)



### SIGNS OF SUICIDE

This proactive suicide prevention program is taught to all grade 7-10 students in the district and includes a screening assessment that allows us to identify students who may be at risk for mental health needs. When identified, students meet with a mental health provider for further evaluation and parents are notified of any safety concerns.

### HOPE SQUAD

Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program implemented with our grade 9-12 students. This program consists of students nominated by their peers to serve in a trusted support role for students experiencing suicidal ideation. The peer mentors receive extensive, ongoing training on how to support their peers.

### GREEN DOT

Green Dot is a bystander intervention program used at the high school level in grades 10-12. Students are trained in proactive ways to step in and support fellow students when situations arise that may become harmful.





## VALUED PARTNERS

### PARTNERSHIPS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENTS

We continue to have a strong relationship with the Gahanna Division of Police (GDP), and we appreciate their partnership in keeping our schools safe. Our administrative team works closely with GDP when issues arise that require the presence of law enforcement in any of our school buildings. We have three highly trained GDP School Resource Officers who work with our district.

The Mifflin Township Division of Fire provides fire and emergency medical services and prevention education to our GJPS schools. We value their professional advice when evaluating the safety and security of our buildings and procedures.

### SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE NETWORK OF Central OHIO (SARNCO)

SARNCO provides advocacy and emotional support services for victims of sexual violence. We recently developed a partnership with SARNCO that enabled us to establish support in several areas.

#### **Establish a Survivor Group**

For high school students who have experienced sexual assault.

#### **Obtain Resources**

For our high school English teachers for a lesson on consent. This lesson was piloted in several classes with a plan to teach it universally next year.

#### **Provide Parent Webinars**

With an emphasis on healthy relationships.



## SENSE OF BELONGING



### MENTAL HEALTH STAFF AND SUPPORT

Building a strong sense of belonging is an important thing we can do to create a safe school environment. Everyone is valued, respected, supported, included, and personally accepted in this environment.

When schools create a sense of belonging where students find a place they are nurtured and cared for, then the school and wider community will be a safer place to go to learn and to live.

We have staff members that support our students, do risk assessments, and have conversations regularly about student safety.

#### **Mental Health Specialists**

One-to-one and small group counseling with some of our most at-risk students.

#### **Mental Health Liaisons**

One-to-one and small group counseling with students who struggled with attendance and engagement. Mental Health Liaisons also complete home visits and link families with resources to assist the student at the systems level.

#### **School Counselors**

Universal support available to all students.





## SAFETY & SECURITY RESOURCES

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

#### IN AN EMERGENCY DIAL 911

##### **Gahanna Division of Police**

Non-emergency administrative offices  
614-342-4240

##### **Mifflin Township Fire Department**

Non-emergency administrative offices  
614-471-4494

##### **Franklin County Sheriff's Office**

Non-emergency administrative offices  
614-525-3333

##### **Jefferson Township Fire Department**

Non-emergency administrative offices  
614-861-3757

### CRISIS HOTLINES

##### **National Suicide Prevention Hotline**

Dial 988  
<https://988lifeline.org>

##### **Safe School Helpline**

800-418-6423 ext. 359  
(800-4-1-VOICE ext. 359)  
Text: 614-426-0240  
Then type: Tips

##### **Franklin County Youth Crisis Line**

Managed by Northwest Community Healthcare  
614-722-1800

##### **Trevor Project**

Provides information and support to LGBTQ  
young people 24/7, all year round.  
1-866-488-7386  
Text 678-678

### AGENCY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

##### **Northwest Community Healthcare**

614-355-8080

##### **Concord Counseling Services**

614-882-9338

### FOOD AND HOUSING RESOURCES

##### **Gahanna Residents in Need**

614-214-4747  
<https://grin4gahanna.org/>

##### **Lutheran Social Services**

Formerly HandsOn Central Ohio  
Provides food, housing resources  
Dial 211

##### **Homeless Hotline**

614-274-7000

##### **Huckleberry House**

For at-risk and homeless youth  
614-294-5553  
<https://www.huckhouse.org/>

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE**

## How to Reach 988

Call or text 988 to reach the 988 Lifeline  
[988Lifeline.org](https://988Lifeline.org)

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
GAHANNA-JEFFERSON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
PLEASE VISIT**

**[www.GahannaSchools.org](http://www.GahannaSchools.org)**



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