



HOOVER
CITY SCHOOLS

Focus on School Safety

March 2018



PRIMARY GOALS for HCS in priority order ...

1. **Safety of all students and adults on our campuses.**
2. **Academic growth and achievement of all students.**



Mutual Agreements and Rules of Engagement:

- **We will not engage in any discussion tonight which has the potential to compromise student safety.**
- **Please be respectful of all persons. A speaker may not defame the good name and character of another.**
- **While discussions about gun control are important, this is not the forum.**
- **Tonight is a time to focus on our children, our schools, our community, and to share ideas and concerns...not a time for personal oratories and debate.**

Purposes of School Safety Community Meetings:

- **Share strategies currently in place regarding school safety**
- **Share other strategies which may enhance safety**
- **Hear ideas from our students, parents, and community**



A Simple But Most Important Strategy...

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING OR KNOW SOMETHING, SAY SOMETHING!

Students talk to each other

Parents talk to each other

Parents & children talk to each other

Talk to teachers, counselors, administrators, SRO

Call the Hoover Police Department OR Compact 2020 Tipline



NASRO and Hoover Police SROs

THANK YOU to NASRO and Hoover Police Department!

11 Full-time SROs

13 Reserve Officers Serving as SROs

2 Full-time Sergeants Supervising SROs

4 additional full-time HPD positions



Drills, Training, & Reviews...



Required Drills:

- Fire Drills
- Seasonal Severe Weather Drills (EMA JeffCo & Shelby Counties)
- Code Red School Safety Drills (Lockdown) [Alabama Code Section 16-1-44]

Required Annual Training:

- School Safety Plans (District Safety Plan, District Safety Meetings, District Safety PLU 2017-2018, School Safety Coordinators at Each School)
- Child Neglect/Abuse
- Student Harassment (Bullying)
- Erin's Law (Child Sexual Abuse)
- Jason Flatt Act training (Suicide awareness)

Drills, Training, & Reviews...

Required Annual Reviews:

- **Annual Safety Plan Review**
- **Annual School Safety Audit (Hazard Assessment)**

Other:

- **Intruder Drills**
- **Code Yellow Secure the Perimeters**

Intervention and Threat Assessments...

- **Clinical Psychologist - Provides behavior consultation & training, develops intervention plans, provides crisis intervention, supports with mental health issues**
- **Mental Health Committee**
- **6 Interventionists (Licensed Professional Counselors, Registered Play Therapist, Licensed Independent Social Workers, Licensed Social Workers)**
- **37 School Counselors**
- **Go Guardian - Flags possible inappropriate internet sites being visited**
- **Gaggle - Flags possible inappropriate words (e.g., murder, suicide, killing) typed into Google**
- **School-Level Threat Assessment**
- **System-Level Threat Assessment**

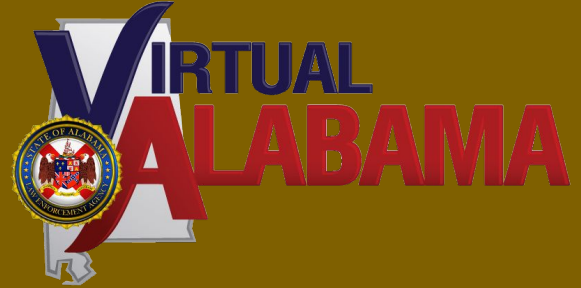
Cameras...



- Total of 1,293 working cameras inside & outside
- High schools have 250-300 cameras
- 82 additional cameras to be installed by Summer 2018
- Some cameras have been relocated in the past two weeks to enhance visibility at entrances and down hallways
- Drone capacity to view campuses



Other Safety Strategies...



- Virtual Alabama (School Safety Plans)
- Compact 2020 Shelby County (Anonymous & Confidential) - 205-670-6847; <http://bit.ly/2020tips>; Coalition of Cities - Hoover, Alabaster, Chelsea, Montevallo, Pelham & Shelby County Sheriff's Dept.
- School Safety Surveys (American Crime Prevention Institute)
- N.I.M.S. (National Incident Management System) Training
- De-escalation/Restraint Training
- Additional lockdown buttons
- Addressing consistency in drill tones & adding blue strobes
- Redesign of lobby areas at some schools
- Communication to families: Blackboard Mass Notification System (call/text/email)



Consideration...Interior Courtyard Pathway at HHS...



Federal Law Regarding Guns on School Campuses...

The Gun-Free School Zones Act (GFSZA) 1990 is an act of the U.S. Congress prohibiting any unauthorized individual from knowingly possessing a loaded or unsecured firearm at a place that the individual knows, or has reasonable cause to believe, is a school zone as defined by 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(25)

FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON SCHOOL CAMPUSES IN THE UNITED STATES

(Some exceptions...for example a teacher may bring a gun to school as a part of a program approved by a state and local board.)

State Law & Alabama Code Regarding Guns on School Campuses...

- **AL Gun Law - Act No. 2013-283**
- **Safe & Drug Free Schools - AL Code 16-1-24.1**

FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON ALABAMA SCHOOL CAMPUSES

(Confusing points are concealed weapon law and the statement “with intent to do bodily harm”)

Hoover Board of Education Policy: Guns on School Property

4.2.1 Prohibition on the Possession of Firearms:

The possession of a firearm in a school building, on school grounds, on Board property, on school buses, or school-sponsored functions is prohibited except for authorized law enforcement personnel. For purposes of this policy, the term “firearm” has the same definition as is found in 18 U.S.C. 921.

FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON HOOVER CITY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Hoover City Schools Code of Conduct: Guns on School Property:

3.08 POSSESSION OF FIREARMS

Discharge, possession, transfer, or sale of any gun or any firearm or any device which will, or is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile; any similar destructive device. Using a firearms facsimile in a manner which is perceived as threatening or capable of inflicting physical harm.

A firearm is any weapon (including a starter gun) which will, is designed to, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such weapons, any firearm muffler, or firearm silencer, any destructive device; or any machine gun. A destructive device is any bomb, grenade, mine, rocket, missile, pipe bomb, or similar device containing some type of explosive that is designed to explode and is capable of causing bodily harm or property damage. Includes firearms of any kind (loaded or unloaded). Includes, but is not limited to, handgun, zip gun, pistol, rifle, shotgun, starter gun, or flare gun.

FIREARMS PROHIBITED ON HOOVER CITY SCHOOL PROPERTY

Current Alabama Bills Before Our Legislators...

- HB435 that authorizes administrators or teachers, with certain qualifications, to carry a pistol while on school property.
- HB236 that would allow a person who is retired in good standing from a federal or state agency with at least 25 total years of law enforcement to be hired as a school resource officer.
- HB434 that prohibits assault weapons to be sold or transferred to anyone under 21 years of age and prohibits anyone under 21 years of age from possessing an assault weapon.
- HB442 that prohibits firearm possession by a minor on public school premises regardless of whether the person has intent to do bodily harm.

Current Alabama Bills Before Our Legislators...

- HB447 that creates the Alabama Task force on School Safety and Security and authorizes the task force to annually study the current education and safety laws, rules and policies of this state in order to assist the Legislature in making effective changes to protect and benefit the citizens of Alabama.
- HB452 that allows the disclosure of certain information by juvenile probation officers to school authorities under special conditions.
- HB366 expand the definition of harassment whether on or off school property, online or electronically.
- HB323 would authorize school security measures as permissible expenditure from AL Technology & Advancement Fund.
- HB449 would authorize a trained volunteer school emergency security force under the supervision of sheriff & chief of police.

Opposing the Arming of Teachers and Other School Personnel...

National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO)

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)

School Superintendents of Alabama (SSA)

Alabama Association of School Boards (AASB)

Council for Leaders in Alabama Schools (CLAS)

Securing Doors...

- Own the complexity of keeping all doors locked and closed
- HHS has 100+ exterior doors
- Students at the high school level are going and coming frequently due to virtual classes, Co-op classes, work schedules, Health Science Academy at Hoover Hall (HHS)



HCS is ranked as...

- **Safest School System in Alabama (Niche, July 2017)**
- **5th Safest School System in the US (Niche, July 2017)**

While we have a number of good strategies in place that put us on these lists, we are not deceived into believing that we are immune from school violence.



Walkouts...

- **National School Walkout (Wednesday, March 14) - Students are being encouraged to walkout of their classrooms at 10:00 AM for 17 minutes in memory of the 17 lives lost in the Parkland, FL school shooting.**
- **March for Our Lives (Saturday, March 24) - March on Washington & across the country to demand better gun control legislation.**
- **National High School Walkout (Friday, April 20) - Students encouraged to wear orange and walkout of classrooms for 15 minutes in memory of the 1999 shootings at Columbine HS in Colorado.**

Considerations if Students Walkout...

Prefer students NOT walkout but rather we choose more productive alternatives (writing legislators; planning a trip to a legislative session in Montgomery; engaging in constructive debate; discussing civil disobedience, implications, & consequences; teachable moments)

1. Keep Students Safe (We DO NOT need confrontations & chaos).
2. We do not wish to be punitive, but we are responsible for safety of students.

Code of Conduct:

2.10 “Leaving School Building and/or Grounds without Permission.”

2.24 “Being truant from class or school (not being in the scheduled location at the scheduled time for the scheduled duration, i.e., skipping)”