



Regional School District #15

COMMUNITY CONVERSION:
SESSION ONE, SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY
SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Defining School Safety

Safe schools promote the protection of all students from violence, exposure to weapons and threats, theft, bullying and harassment, the sale or use of illegal substances on school grounds, and other emergencies.

*National Center on Safe Supportive Learning
Environments*

SOAR Analysis

Strengths

Opportunity

Aspirations

Results

Strengths

Communication Tools and Resources

Phones

- Major phone upgrade district wide with call ID
- 911 accessible

School Dismissal Manager

School Messenger

Walkie Talkie and panic buttons connected to police

Security Tools

- Badges
- Lobbyguard

Buses

- GPS and cameras on all buses for tracking and monitoring
- Parent tracking app

Facilities

Cameras

- Cameras are installed in all 8 of our locations

Window Film

- Windows were coated with a shatter resistant film in strategic places.

Perimeter doors/ Entrance doors

- Inspected routinely throughout the day and before the security alarms are activated each evening
- Card access is on all primary entrance doors
- Bollards installed at all key entrances.

Cybersecurity

- Cloud based solutions with redundancy
- Cyber Security Insurance

Human Capital - School Based Measures

Adult Based Measures

- 1 SRO Pomperaug High School
- Roving Uniformed Police Officers from each town for additional presence.
- 10-Armed Security Officers (ASO) at each school
 - Yearly weapon certification and school safety training
- Annual and minimum of 10 Monthly Drills
- Safety teams/Mental Health Crisis Teams
- Staff and substitute handbooks and emergency response manuals
- School Climate Committees

Student Focused Measures

- Advisory – build relationships
- RULER work to understand and express emotions
- Student Affinity Groups

Strengths

Crisis Management and All Hazards Plans

- School Safety and Security Committee
 - Updated Annually
 - Monthly Building based meetings
- Coordinate with Regional Crisis Team that includes:
 - Middlebury and Southbury Police and Fire Departments, Emergency Management Director, Health Department, School Administration, Teachers, Custodial and Security personnel.
- Signed off by: Middlebury and Southbury Police, Fire Departments, Emergency Management Director, Health Department, First Selectman, School Administration, and Superintendent.
- All plans are submitted to DEMAS Region 5



Opportunities



Communications tool



State of CT School Security Grant



Cybersecurity



Social and Emotional Supports



Center for School Safety and Crisis Prevention



Community Conversations



Supports and Resources Available through district website



Communication

In process of additional communication and alert tools that will be deployed later in the school year.

Similar tools are being used by universities and some school districts have begun to use similar tools



Security Grant

Up to \$400,000 in matching funds over the next two years

Primary use will be to divide funds between increasing capacity and upgrading our current systems.

Strengthening the backend of the system will allow us to expand our system moving forward.

Cyber Security

Fishing

SPAM

Ransomware

Denial of Services

Student Chromebook and google

Student training in social media management and protection of personal information



Social and Emotional Supports

Nationally, 63% of children have faced some form of adverse childhood experience (ACE)

At the Region, State and National levels middle school aged children are experiencing the greatest increase in emotional challenges

Uplift: UPLIFT is a train-the-trainer program that is trauma-informed, resilience-focused, and individualized to meet the unique systemic needs of a school or district.

RESC Alliance Regional Trauma Coordinators provide training, technical assistance, and consultation to public school districts at no cost.

The training program includes four modules:

- Trauma-Informed Care (101)
- Trauma-Informed Care Leadership Orientation
- Staff and System Wellness
- Trauma-Informed Care in Practice (6 Part) Series



Connecticut Center for School Safety and Security

Began working with them in the Fall of 2022

Region 15 Administrators attended their conference on school safety this past August

Training in threat assessments scheduled for this fall.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

All events will be held at Pomperaug High School from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. Additional information will be provided as the date approaches. All community members are welcome.

We recognize that community partners are essential to provide families with valuable connections to supports and services. Our commitment to provide a safe environment for our students and staff physically, mentally and socially remains a continued priority in Region 15. We are hopeful that you can join us at these events!

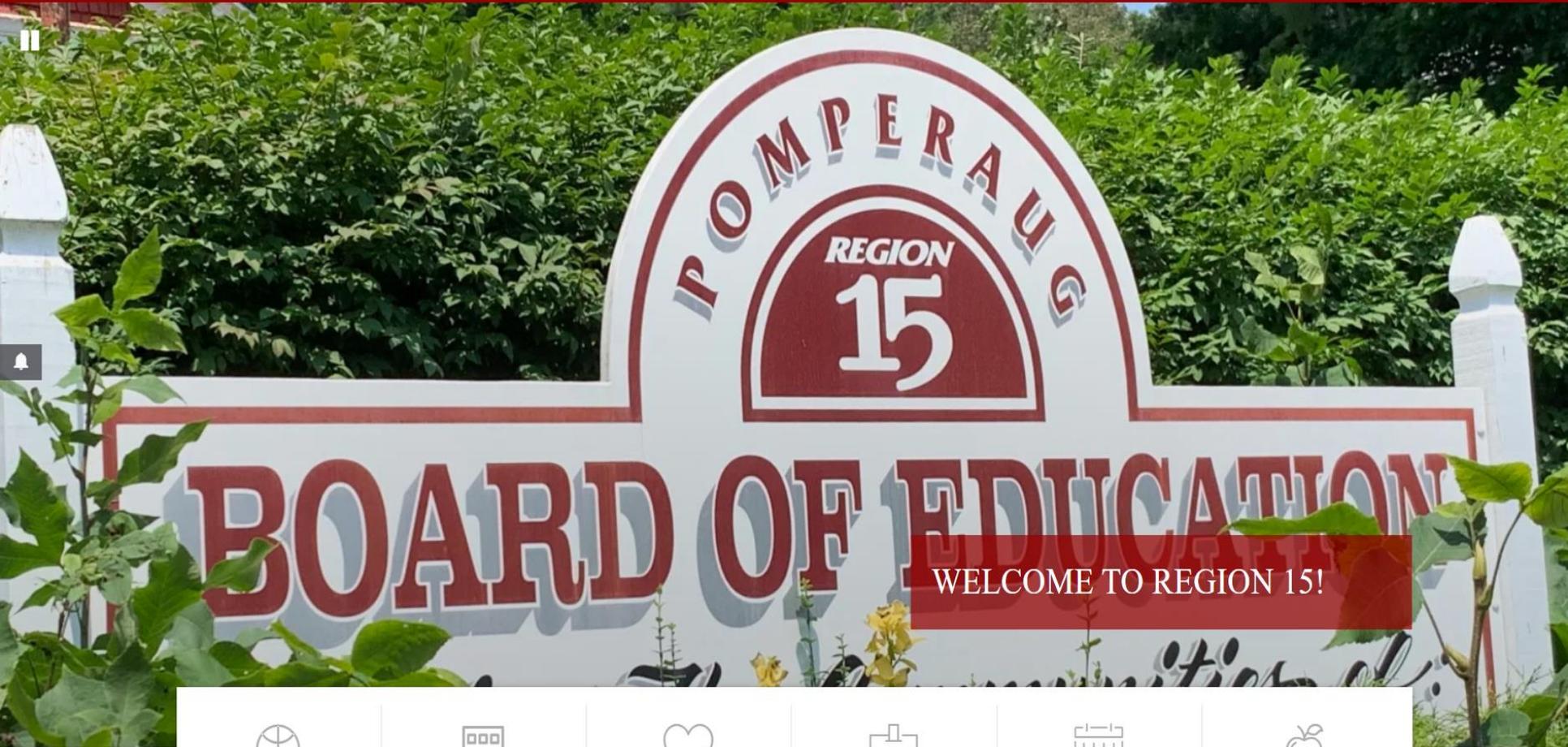
Wednesday, September 27th, 2023, 6:30pm - 8:00pm: Center for School Safety and Crisis Preparation at Western Connecticut State University

Monday, November 16th, 2023 at 6:30pm- 8:00pm: Social Emotional Health

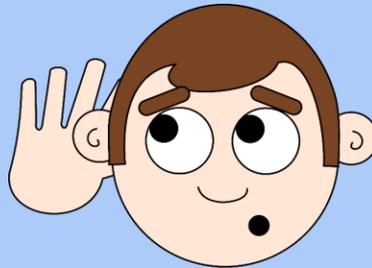
Tuesday, January 23rd OR Thursday, January 25th, 2024 at 6:30pm-8:00pm: Building positive relationships with Social Media and Technology in Everyday life. (Please note we are pending confirmation on a date.)

Thursday, March 14th, 2024, at 6:30pm - 8:00 pm: Harlem Magic Masters Family Fun Night!

Wednesday, May 8th, 2024 at 6:30 pm - 8:00pm: Learning about Mindfulness with Brian Thompson from Copper Beech Institute.



Website Resources



We want to hear
from you.

Aspirations



Results

All Principals, School Counselors, Psychologists, Social Workers, and Security Officers in Region 15 staff will be better trained to identify, communicate, and respond to threats

More parents will be informed about the work we are doing and their role as partners in promoting safe community environments

Students will have a stronger partnership with the adults in our schools and a better understanding of the role they play in school safety

Upgraded Surveillance

One of the challenges with measuring the results of our safety and security work is that when we are effective, we establish conditions where events are avoided.

Funding Sources for Security

Operating

- Armed Security
- Software Licensing (Lobby Guard, School Dismissal Manager, Cybersecurity Insurance, Spam Filters, AntiVirus, Security Cameras, Communication Devices)
- Ongoing Maintenance Contracts (Fire Panels, Door Locks, Sprinkler Systems, Key Systems)
- **Grants**
- State of Connecticut School Security grant
 - \$188,000 for 6 schools camera upgrades

Capital

- Phone Upgrade
- \$188,000 for camera upgrades
- Storage devices
- Security Upgrades
- Card access system
- Replacement of classroom locks



Emergency Management Coordination

Southbury's Emergency
Management Coordinator role



Reviewing School Security
Planning for all Region 15 Schools

Helps oversee fire and security
drills at all schools



Questions?