

BUSD Safety Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) July 2022

It has been a difficult summer with so many senseless gun violence tragedies in our nation. We know this raises concerns about school safety as we return to school. We wanted to continue to inform our BUSD community about safety measures and support for students and staff and our partnership with the Burbank Police Department and the City of Burbank. Please click on the following link to see a presentation that was made at the joint City of Burbank and BUSD Board of Education meeting on 7/19/22 that discussed school safety.

https://burbank.granicus.com/player/clip/9887?meta_id=400356

This video highlights the importance of a community wide and multi-pronged approach to school safety.

1. Proactive Prevention
2. Proactive Planning and Training
3. Response Readiness

Mental Health and Social and Emotional Learning

1. How do I talk to my children or others about gun violence? We understand the incidents of gun violence on school campuses and in our nation have created stress and fear among many of our students and staff. Please feel comfortable reaching out to a school counselor or administrator if you need assistance or additional resources. [School shooting: Resources for parents and educators > LACOE](#)

2. What is PBIS and what does it have to do with school safety? Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) is a district wide initiative that supports students and staff, creates a positive school climate, encourages positive relationships among all members of the school community, and helps train staff on trauma-informed practices, restorative justice and positive approaches for engaging students. <https://www.burbankusd.org/Page/498>. Research shows that students who have strong relationships with adults and other students tend to feel more engaged with the school community and this translates to attendance, grades and behavior.

3. What is the new 9-8-8 phone number? This is a new nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. "988" is the three-digit, nationwide phone number to connect directly to the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

4. Care Centers and mental health support? Both high schools are fortunate to have Care Centers with staff from Family Service Agency of Burbank to provide onsite support to students with mental health challenges. School psychologists are also assigned to every school in Burbank and we work closely with the Mental Health Assessment Team. Family Service Agency of Burbank provides on-site counseling for students [Family Services Agency - Burbank](#).

5. Social and Emotional Learning and activities? All schools in Burbank incorporate social and emotional learning into the curriculum. In elementary school, students have Second Step lessons on topics like decision-making and being a good friend. Secondary students are using programs like

Wayfarer or activities like Link Crew that build strong connections among students, staff and the school community and assist students with social and emotional learning. Schools are continuing to find ways to imbed social and emotional learning into the school day.

6. What do I do if a student is struggling with mental health? Parents, students, and staff can reach out to school counselors, administration, school psychologists and the Family Service Agency of Burbank for assistance.

7. Are there additional resources? We understand the incidents of gun violence on school campuses have created stress and fear among many of our students and staff. Please feel comfortable reaching out to a school counselor or administrator if you need assistance or additional resources. [School shooting: Resources for parents and educators > LACOE](#) and [Online Virtual Learning for Bullying, Violence and Suicide Prevention](#)

Security and Safety Measures

1. What security measures are in place in schools? All schools have buzzers and automatic front door locks so front office staff can see who they are letting onto school property. Volunteers and visitors are required to use the visitor management system (RAPTOR). The high schools have cameras and all secondary schools have campus supervisors who assist with monitoring the school campus. We are also purchasing additional trauma kits for our school campuses.

2. Are there police officers on campus? BPD has assigned BUSD one School Resource Officer (SRO). Our SRO assists with issues related to vandalism, security, and threats. Our SRO also assists with Safe School Plans, staff training and safety committee meetings.

3. What are Safe School Plans? Each school in Burbank completes a Safe School Plan every year to continue to refine and monitor safety practices, training and preparation. [Emergency Planning and Safety / Safe School Plans](#)

4. Does the school do "Active Shooter Drills"? "Active Shooter" drills can cause stress and anxiety among students. In Burbank, we have lockdown drills and shelter in place drills to train students what to do in case of an external threat.

5. What type of training are BUSD staff getting regarding incidents of school violence? Student Services and the Burbank Police Department are partnering to provide training on school violence and threat assessment in the Fall.

6. What if my child is being bullied? Students and parents should always report bullying incidents immediately to a school staff member - typically an administrator, counselor, teacher, or intervention specialist. Anyone in BUSD can also email stopbullying@burbankusd.org to get assistance.

7. Who is responsible for safety in BUSD? We all are. If you see or hear something, say something! Burbank Unified School District's We Tip hotline number is (800) 873-7283. Individuals can call to anonymously report COVID concerns or other workplace hazards. You can also make a report online at www.WeTip.com. In addition, site staff conduct a Safe School Plan assessment every year and work

toward creating a safe learning environment for students and staff. We have a District Safety Committee that includes stakeholders from all aspects of our learning community including the Burbank Police Department and Burbank Fire Department.

8. Does BUSD monitor online activity? All BUSD computers are screened by a “Relay” safety system. If students or staff use language regarding school violence or self-harm, it triggers an alert and district and school staff follow up to ensure student and staff safety and support.

9. What happens if a student makes a threat? Each school site has an assessment team that works with school staff and other partners to ensure that students get the support they need.

10. What is the process that BUSD follows when a student makes a threat? BUSD takes all threats against staff or students seriously and they are immediately reported to the police. Threats are typically reported by parents, students and staff. BPD will investigate, conduct background checks, ensure that the student or individual does not have access to weapons, and review the individual's history and any mental health concerns. When BPD is satisfied the individual does not pose a threat to the school, then BUSD sends notifications to parents, students and staff that the threat is not credible. Then BPD and BUSD work together to provide resources to support the student or individual. If the threat were credible, then both BPD and BUSD would notify staff, students, and parents and actions would be implemented to ensure the safety of the school, students and staff.

11. What are BUSD and the Burbank Police Department (BPD) doing to encourage safe driving? BUSD and BPD worked together to create a safe driving curriculum for all 9th graders at JBHS and BHS. The topics included distracted driving, speed racing and consequences for poor driving decisions. Please see the link to the Joint City and School District meeting above as it includes a presentation by BPD on safe driving measures.

Safe Driving PSA <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IApIkP0rnkM>

<https://myburbank.com/burbank-police-launch-driver-education-curriculum-for-9th-grade-students/>

BUSD and BPD are considering expanding the program this year.

12. What if I have more questions? Please contact your site administrator, review information on our website or contact Stacy Cashman, the Director of Students Services at stacycashman@burbankusd.org (818-729-4456).

[Ways to reduce anxiety and stress around school violence and safety](#)

As we approach the new school year, some students and staff will be anxious about their safety and recent events involving school violence. Here are some simple strategies that may help alleviate some concerns and assist with the transition back to school:

- 1) Structure and routines give an individual a sense of security and normalcy
- 2) Listen to their concerns and do not disregard or dismiss their fears and feelings
- 3) Limit exposure to social media as often the coverage can increase feelings of insecurity and anxiety

- 4) Sleep difficulties can reflect emotions and fears - establish calming night routines (reading a book, listening to music, meditation, reduced screen time)
- 5) Seek out resources or reach out to the school for help