

School Safety SY2024-2025

The Board of Education and Administration, in coordination with law enforcement, the Office of Emergency Management, and others are committed to ensuring that our facilities are secure and that our students and staff are safe. We have taken many steps to improve our safety practices, programs, and procedures. The safety and security of our students is our highest priority.

The Gloucester County Educational Campus consists of Rowan College of South Jersey, Gloucester County Institute of Technology, and The Schools for Neurodiversity. The coordination and efforts to address safety and security on this campus is constantly reviewed and addressed with school personnel. We are in constant contact with our stakeholders to ensure compliance with all New Jersey Department of Education procedures.

The District's safety committee coordinates safety and security procedures in partnership with the Gloucester County Sheriff's Department, Office of Emergency Management, Deptford Township Police Department, Rowan College of South Jersey, and the New Jersey Office of Emergency Management. These parties work together to implement safety procedures and practices on the Educational Campus and within each individual school building.

The following measures are what we have in place to prevent security breaches and to deter incidents of violence in our schools:

- Four full time School Resource Officers from the Gloucester County Sheriff's Office are assigned to the Educational Campus. There are four officers on campus during the day. There is also one sheriff's officer assigned to the campus in the evening and weekends through our partnership with Rowan College of South Jersey. All of the assigned officers work closely with the various school administrators and staff to ensure the safety of everyone on campus. A fifth SRO will be joining this team later this year.
- There are two security guards and an administrator present on campus Monday-Thursday at GCIT. Administration and school security personnel attend yearly trainings and exercises, both locally and regionally
- Security personnel are present in the school's parking lots to monitor visitors, check exterior doors, and to monitor anyone that is attempting to enter our schools during the school day.
- Each year, during School Violence Awareness Week, GCIT meets with law enforcement agencies, students, parents, administration, and faculty to review the Memorandum of Agreement and to reaffirm our commitment to safe schools. We have excellent relationships with our law enforcement partners. Local police have access to live streaming video surveillance of our schools and grounds. GCIT's Comprehensive Safety and Security Plan is updated annually by all stakeholders.
- The school district maintains twenty-four-hour video surveillance of the buildings and grounds. Recently the district reviewed all camera locations with law enforcement to enhance our video capabilities and address areas that were in need of surveillance.
- We recently upgraded and confirmed our reunification plan and partnership with the Deptford Township Police Department should it be necessary to evacuate the Educational Campus. We work closely with this team to support the safety of our students.

- GCIT has installed the Lobbyguard Visitor Management System that requires all visitors to provide identification prior to being allowed into the school.
- The main vestibules at GCIT, and the 100-wing entrance, have been secured with electronic entry by the receptionist only.
- The school district practices fire and security drills monthly. Security drills include lockdown, shelter in place, active shooter, and evacuation. Tabletop exercises are held at a minimum of twice per year to review these plans and practices.
- All staff members and students at GCIT are required to wear IDs throughout the school day. Classroom teachers are also mandated to keep their doors closed and locked at all times.
- Administration, faculty members, and security staff are assigned to strategic areas of the school during arrival and dismissal. In addition, staff members are assigned to specific areas within the school setting during the school day.
- Kindly, review your contact information and ensure that it is correct and up to date in School Messenger/Power School. This messaging system is capable of providing real time voice notification of emergencies, weather events, school closings, and updates as determined by school and emergency personnel.

Please be reminded to be alert, follow all traffic directives, and maintain safe driving habits. The educational campus is very busy, especially during arrival and dismissal.

Please contact your child's counselor, teacher, school administrator, or School Based Youth Services counselor should your child need support. In addition to our guidance counselors and child study team members, the district is fortunate to house the School Based Youth Services program at GCIT.

While the District has numerous programs and practices in place to ensure the safety of our students, and your children, the partnership between school, home and the community is essential to providing a safe and secure environment. We encourage everyone to be vigilant and report any inappropriate social media and online interactions to school personnel. Even the slightest issue that you may feel would affect the safety of schools, students, and faculty members could make a difference.