Charleston County School District

OVERVIEW OF SCHOOL SAFETY MEASURES

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) has the primary mission of educating students so they can compete in a global economy and make a positive contribution to our community and nation. This is not possible if our students, faculty, and staff are not kept safe in our schools. For this reason, it is important for our students, parents, and staff to understand what CCSD is doing in the area of school safety and what you can do to assist.

Please note that CCSD does not discuss its specific procedures or security feature specifications in a public forum in order to avoid this information from being used by someone wanting to do harm. If interested, students, staff, and parents should always feel comfortable asking your school administrators for more information on these topics. Additional information can also be found at http://www.ccsdschools.com/security.

Emergency Planning, Drills, and Training

- CCSD has an all-hazards emergency plan that addresses a variety of threats including weather emergencies, utility failures, fire, and active shooters.
- All new employees hired by CCSD are required to attend New Hire Orientation where employees receive live instruction on the district's emergency procedures from the CCSD Office of Security and Emergency Management.
- Emergency drills are conducted on an ongoing basis with our students and staff for situations such as fires, armed intruders, earthquakes, and tornadoes.
- Staff members receive ongoing training and information on safety-related topics through online courses, presentations distributed and/or facilitated by district-level departments, memos, discussions at staff meetings, and video training.
- After a campus emergency, school administrators, district officials, and public safety personnel meet to conduct an after-action review of the incident to identify areas that may need improvement related to prevention, crisis mitigation, response, and recovery.
- After a major school safety incident occurs in this country, the district's emergency plans and safety practices are evaluated against the facts of the incident. Adjustments to the plan are made, if needed.

Physical Security Measures

- CCSD uses the "defense-in-depth" concept when creating physical security plans for each campus. This concept is designed to have barriers and systems that will help deter, detect, and/or delay a potential threat from entering a campus.
- CCSD employs physical security measures such as fences, vehicle barriers, surveillance cameras, electronic access controls, security vestibules/doors/gates, and door locks to keep our campuses secure.
- Visitor management protocols are in place to screen individuals prior to entering a campus or school building. All school visitors are screened against the national sex offender registry and an internal CCSD database. School volunteers receive additional screening.

Threat Reporting, Detection, and Assessment

- CCSD immediately responds to any concerns or threats that could impact school safety. The district involves law enforcement in all reported threats. CCSD has resources available to work on these issues 24/7/365, and threats are taken seriously when the information is first received.
- CCSD utilizes a monitoring system that helps detect threatening messages that are transmitted via a student's district network account.

CCSD 24/7 Security Operations Center:
(843) 296-2166

Charleston > excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.ccsdschools.com/security
security@charleston.k12.sc.us

- CCSD has a 24/7 Prevention Tip-Line that allows students, parents, and others to anonymously report bullying, threats, weapons, gang activity, drug use, or any other serious problem at a CCSD school. The number is 877-250-2790. Reports can also be submitted to CrimeStoppers of the Lowcountry by phone (843-554-1111) or by web (http://www.5541111.com). In all cases, please be specific with the information reported to include school name, date/time, and names of individuals likely involved.
- The district has a formal risk assessment process that is used to evaluate a student who has communicated threatening messages or engaged in threatening behavior toward oneself or others. The assessment is completed by a team of trained individuals, and the results of the assessment dictate what interventions and potential safety measures to employ.
- If a member of the CCSD community receives information about a threat during non-business hours and you do not where to turn, contact local law enforcement immediately (843-743-7200 or 911). Law enforcement can establish communication with CCSD personnel, if needed.

School Resource Officers/Security Personnel

- Law enforcement officers from five local law enforcement agencies provide full-time services to CCSD schools on a daily basis.
- At least one School Resource Officer (SRO) is assigned to most middle and high school campuses in CCSD. SROs are full-time police officers employed by a local law enforcement agency, and they are responsible for providing a physical security presence on their assigned campus.
- Elementary schools in CCSD receive different types of police protection based on the location of the school. Schools receive protection from assigned SROs, members of specialized police units dedicated to the physical security of schools, an off-duty police officer, and/or local patrol officers that randomly visit schools. School Security Officers (SSOs) are also used in some locations where a full-time SRO is not available.
- While certain members of a school staff are responsible for specific physical security tasks, maintaining the safety of a campus is the collective responsibility of all CCSD personnel who are assigned to a facility. The security perimeter of a campus should be secured each day at the start of school, and staff monitor gates, fences, and doors throughout the day to ensure that the perimeter remains secured. Additionally, the CCSD Security and Emergency Management team employs a regular campus safety assessment program.
- The CCSD Search and Safety Team conducts random searches to deter individuals from bringing weapons and contraband to school and school-based activities, curtail the threat of violence, and foster a safe learning environment. While the program is primarily used in high schools, some components may also be seen in the middle schools.

What Can Parents Do?

- Discuss school safety with your children. Students should feel comforted knowing that there are emergency plans in place and that drills are designed to better prepare all of us for an emergency. We should feel prepared, but not scared.
- Remain engaged with your children. Know who their friends are and where they are spending time. Do not ignore negative changes in behavior. Reach out for assistance, if needed.
- Get to know your "digital" son or daughter. Be aware and involved in what your children are doing or saying online, especially on social media platforms.
- Speak with your children about reporting suspicious activity or threats to the proper authorities. Students and parents should feel comfortable sharing that information with a teacher, school administrator, other staff member, or SRO. If the safety of another person is in jeopardy, students should know the importance of immediately reporting that information. Help fight against the belief among some students that "snitching" is wrong.
- REPORT THREATS IMMEDIATELY! If you receive information after-hours about a potential threat and are unable to reach anyone at the school, please contact local law enforcement. Do not wait until the next day! Remember, threats or other emergency information should never be reported only through email.
- If you observe a safety concern on your child's campus, please report it to a school administrator.

CCSD 24/7 Security Operations Center:
(843) 296-2166

Charleston ›excellence is our standard
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

http://www.ccsdschools.com/security
security@charleston.k12.sc.us