

## Talking Points – Comprehensive Safety Plan

- Student and staff safety remains the top priority on our campus and throughout the district.
- We recognize that school safety is everyone's shared responsibility, which is why as a district, we are implementing a variety of measures to continue to ensure everyone's safety.
- This comprehensive safety plan includes:
  - Facility enhancements and protocols
  - Training and safety awareness for staff
  - Mental health support and resources for students and families
  - Resources for reporting concerns
- Many of the measures that we have outlined in the Comprehensive Safety Plan were already in place, but we started to review them in the fall of 2021 and to have deeper discussions with internal and external safety task forces about how they could be enhanced. Students, parents, staff, community members, and security professionals helped guide safety decisions and upgrades that are outlined in our comprehensive safety plan.
- Many of the enhancements that we are implementing not only comply with new requirements from the state's Texas School Safety Center but go above and beyond in promoting the safety and well-being of our students, staff and visitors.

### The plan details some key changes of note that I'd like to share:

- More safety checks, inspections, and training focused on facility access points and safety protocols—all efforts that launched this summer.
- Distribution of hand-held metal detector wands to elementary schools
  - Walkthrough metal detectors are currently at the majority of secondary schools
- Installation of metal detectors at multi-level schools where elementary and middle school share a building.
- Adding and upgrading security cameras at every campus, a measure that was included in the approved 2020 Bond Program
- Adding staff to the emergency response team, transitioning hall monitors to trained security personnel and ensuring all campus staff are properly trained.

### Student Safety Measures

- Student safety initiatives include:
  - additional and robust mental health supports
  - a new focus on discipline through the reset centers, which help students deal with the root cause of the discipline issues
  - consistent safety drills

- While 30 campuses only allowed the use of either clear or mesh backpacks last year, that protocol will now be a requirement at every middle and high school.
  - For several years, principals have been given the autonomy to implement a local backpack protocol to best fit their campus needs.

#### **How parents can help with school safety:**

- **Add any specific campus initiatives you may have, such as participating in the Parent School Safety Committee, getting involved in other school initiatives, etc.**
- **Parent engagement in school and at home is important not just for a safer environment but for student success overall.**

#### **Be SMART Initiative**

- According to a national study, 4.6 million children in the U.S. live in households with at least one loaded, unlocked firearm, and most of those incidents take place inside the home.
- Research shows secure firearm storage helps with up to an 85 percent reduction in the risk of self-inflicted and unintentional firearm injuries among youth.
- Dallas ISD is joining with others across the nation to share with parents the importance of safely storing guns.
- With your help, school safety can start at home.

#### **Resources for safety concerns:**

- Safety is everyone's responsibility, so the district has several resources to report any safety concerns anonymously, such as the Say Something Anonymous Reporting System, Campus Crime Stoppers and others.
- Comprehensive safety plan details and information on these programs are available on Dallas ISD's website at [dallasisd.org/safeschools](http://dallasisd.org/safeschools).