

Safe Schools Messaging for Principals

The safety of our students and staff is always our top priority, and it is a responsibility we take seriously.

As we focus on providing a welcoming and safe learning environment on our campus, it is crucial that we take every measure possible to ensure our schools remain safe for learning, growing, and teaching.

We recognize it will take a multi-pronged approach.

Facilities and Staff

It's important that you are aware of the many steps we have taken to ensure safer schools. These measures include a significant investment designed to improve safety in our buildings.

Thanks to Dallas voters, the 2020 Bond will bring more than \$100M to improve school safety. Improvements include:

- Campus security cameras (\$50M)
- Keyless entry access to schools (\$38M)
- Weapons detection systems (\$5M)
- Video doorbells (\$1M)
- Classroom door safety devices (\$1M)
- Professional development for emergency response (\$21M)
- Police Emergency Ops Center (\$300K)

Additionally, we worked throughout the summer to:

- increase security and campus staff training and drills
- thoroughly inspect and review campus entry points
- update and review security protocols and training with staff
- add and upgrade security cameras
- **ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS**-received hand-held metal detector wands
- **SECONDARY SCHOOLS**-inspect and ensure walk-through metal detectors were operable
- **MULTI-LEVEL SCHOOLS**-install walk-through metal detectors

Students

This year, we are requiring secondary students to use clear or mesh backpacks as an additional measure to help increase safety.

It is important to note that **many schools in Dallas ISD have required the use of clear backpacks for several years.**

While this, alone, is not the answer, the decision was based on input and data from an internal and external safety task force and responses from a parent survey.

The **Sandy Hook Promise** is another program we have implemented.

This program encourages students to **Say Something if they See Something** that raises a concern by talking with an adult or reporting it through a safety app.

Without a doubt, the challenges facing our communities today weigh heavily on students, as well as our staff. We have put additional steps in place to provide mental health supports for our students to help them as needed.

We, also, are using the **Reset Centers** to help students better manage behavior.

Social media threats are also an area of concern, and we want you to know that Dallas ISD Police monitor social media channels continuously and investigate every threat.

We urge parents to speak with your students about safe social media protocols and the seriousness of making and/or sharing social media threats.

Parents

School safety is a responsibility that we all share, and we ask our parents to help us in this very important effort because parents are teachers, too. Research shows that **4.6 million students live in homes with a loaded gun that is not safely stored** out of the reach of children.

The national **Be SMART campaign** encourages parents to start at home by safely securing guns, unloaded and out of their children's reach. We will be sharing this message throughout the year to simply remind our parents to take these small, but vital steps.

You can find more info on our comprehensive school safety plan at: www.dallasisd.org/safeschools.

This is not an issue that we take lightly, and it will continue to be our top priority.

Again, safe schools are all of our responsibilities, and I'm grateful to everyone for taking the time to help keep our school safe.