



Davie County Schools Enhances School Safety With OPENGATE Weapons Detectors and RAVE Panic Button

Mocksville, NC, November 12, 2024 - As part of the ongoing effort to ensure the safety of students and staff, the Davie County Board of Education voted tonight to approve placing 18 OPENGATE Weapons Detectors in all elementary, middle and high schools.



OPENGATE is a state-of-the-art, walk-through detection system that is already in use in stadiums, arenas, theme parks, hospitals, and many school districts across North Carolina and the country. It is easily portable, and can be used indoors or outdoors at athletic events and other school gatherings, providing a flexible and comprehensive security option.

“We are thankful to the school board’s support to add this additional layer of security in our district, and for our partnership with the Davie County Sheriff’s Office in helping us select the best state-of-the-art weapons detection system for our schools, reinforcing our commitment to safety for everyone on our school campuses,” said Jeff Wallace, Davie County Schools superintendent. “OPENGATE is just one piece of our safety plan, which has the ability to detect and prevent threats before they arise. We want to reassure families that we are taking every step possible to create a safe environment, and feel confident that safety is our top priority each day at school.”

The units will be implemented across the district in stages, beginning with the middle and high schools. All students and visitors will be required to enter the schools through an OPENGATE system. The total cost of the units is \$349,158.40. Davie County Schools has applied for a

safety grant that, if approved, will cover the entire purchase. Until then, the initial cost will be drawn from the district's capital fund balance.

“Our goal is to maintain a safe, welcoming environment for all students and visitors while minimizing any educational disruptions,” said Wallace. “As these systems are rolled out, we will continue to prioritize ongoing communication with families to ensure new procedures and how they will impact daily routines. Based on all information we have received from school systems that have already implemented OPENGATE, once the initial training of staff and students is completed, the morning check-in process goes smoothly and efficiently.”

To keep families informed, each school will send specific updates when they are available, and a dedicated information page will be available on our [Safe + Secure page](#) on godavie.org.

RAVE App

In addition to OPENGATE, Davie County Schools is currently implementing the RAVE Panic Button app for staff members. Provided by the state at no cost, this app allows staff to quickly report emergencies—police, fire, medical, or other—by pressing a button on their phones, immediately alerting 911 and notifying all staff members through the app.

The OPENGATE detection system and RAVE app are part of a multi-layered approach to enhancing school safety. In recent years, Davie County Schools has added multiple new and enhanced security measures, including additional School Resource Officers (SROs), upgraded and expanded surveillance cameras, clear bag requirements at school and athletic events, and an emergency hotline (1-866-719-5890). These efforts are supported by ongoing safety training and drills for students and staff, further underscoring the district's commitment to a safe learning environment.

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