Goal 8 Action Plan Year 1 Priorities – 2022-2023

Call to Action:

Katy ISD learners, through active engagement, achieve individual success while making positive contributions in an ever-changing world.

Goal 8:

Katy ISD will actively support the well-being of all learners.

Specific Result:

8.3 All campuses and departments will meet the required components of the comprehensive district safety plan and state safety requirements.

Summary Report:

Katy ISD school and district safety protocols meet and exceed the Texas School Safety Center recommendations. Katy ISD has a dedicated Police Department, that includes Campus Officers and Security Teams, Patrol Officers, Detectives, an Office of Emergency Management, and Mental Health Intervention teams in place to support the safety needs across its 74 campuses.

Katy ISD teams consisting of campus and district administrative professionals collaborate with Katy ISD police personnel to conduct behavioral threat assessments, review behaviors that identify potential pre-incident indicators and potential attack methods, and allow development of student support plans as necessary.

In an effort to continue to build capacity across the Katy ISD police force, this past school year, the district created the Police Cadet position. These police officer candidates, once vetted and approved for hiring, are sponsored to attend Basic Peace Officer Certification. While waiting to begin certification, the cadets perform security guard duties to acclimate to the District. The Board of Trustees has approved the addition of five more police officers bringing the department's allocated strength up to 76.

The Katy ISD police have also worked closely with local and statewide agencies to align protocols. The Katy ISD PD has participated in collaborative discussions and trainings with area school districts in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) program, which assists in ensuring that responding law enforcement response protocols are aligned. These response protocols are primarily based on the concept of Unified Command, whereby agencies share responsibilities and duties in the coordination of emergency response activities. At the beginning of the summer of 2023, the district hosted a multi-agency Active Shooter Exercise at one of its high schools. The district and responding agencies had the opportunity to practice and demonstrate abilities to respond to an active shooter incident with appropriate actions to control and neutralize an assailant, work alongside other jurisdictions, initiate public messaging and timely updates, and stand up a reunification site.

To enhance safety at District large-scale events, especially those that are attended by outside individuals (i.e., non-students/staff), the district has secured and implemented non-intrusive security screening devices. These devices are in use at Katy ISD's two stadiums, Merrell Center, and Agricultural Sciences Center.

Recent additive recommendations from the TEA and Texas School Safety Center for districts to train staff and incorporate recent state requirements were also implemented this past school year. This included identification of enhanced fencing standards and incorporating a new staff directive for all teachers to instruct with their doors closed and locked. Refinement of campus safety plans for new and existing schools regularly occurs throughout the school year.

The district continues to finalize application of the 2017-2020 Safety Audit recommendations during this school year. The application of an additional layer of security cameras at all campuses has been completed at all high schools and junior highs. Continued application across elementary campuses began in June 2023. Additional action steps taken as a result of the safety audit recommendations include the increased officer presence at campuses at after hour events, increased staff training requirements to be applied to campus Simple Triage and Rapid Treatment teams, and improvement of internal campus communication for emergency responder radios. In response to state proposed initiatives, the district has also taken steps to further enhance safety and security capabilities above and beyond those recommended by the Texas School Safety Center in 2020. This will dramatically inform the impending 2020-2023 Safety and Security Audit and maintains Katy ISD's status as school district that not only meets, but exceeds the state standard for student and staff safety.