



# MUSCOGEE COUNTY

SCHOOL DISTRICT

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OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MEDIA ADVISORY

### MCSD New Safety Protocols for SY 2025-2026

**Columbus, GA** — 7/22/2025 - As part of the Muscogee County School District's (MCSD) continued commitment to providing a safe and productive learning environment, MCSD is implementing several new protocols beginning this school year. These measures are designed to facilitate the safety and welfare of every student, staff member, and visitor on campus.

#### 1. **Security Vestibules**

Many schools are now equipped with secure entrance vestibules with others being phased in over time. These secure entryways will serve as controlled checkpoints where all students, staff and visitors must be screened and approved before accessing the main campus. Students will continue to enter through designated doors, and entries will be monitored by staff and security personnel during arrival times. This additional layer of security aligns with best practices recommended by law enforcement and adopted by school districts nationwide.

#### 2. **Limited Use of Electronic Devices**

In accordance with Georgia House Bill 340 and aligned with our focus on safety and academic integrity, MCSD is limiting the **use of personal electronic devices for students in kindergarten through twelfth grade during school hours**. Students must secure their personal phones, earbuds, smartwatches and other non-school-issued electronic devices and they are **not** to be accessed from the time school begins until dismissal, unless explicitly permitted by school administration and teachers for educational purposes or during designated times (e.g. before/after school, lunch or extra-curricular events). Unauthorized use during instructional time will result in progressive disciplinary action. This change is designed to foster greater student engagement and cultivate a respectful, productive learning environment.

### 3. **Weapons Detection System**

The **weapons detection systems** are currently being installed at the main entrances of **all middle and high schools**. This system allows for non-invasive, real-time screening for potential weapons with minimal disruption. This technology has been successfully deployed in public venues and multiple school districts across Georgia and the nation. Designed for high throughput with minimal disruption, the system allows students to walk through without emptying bags unless an alert is triggered. In such cases, trained security staff will conduct a quick and respectful follow-up screening in a private, designated area.

Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent, stated, "We understand that new safety protocols can raise questions, and we are committed to keeping communication open and transparent. These enhancements are made with one purpose in mind: to protect the well-being and future of every student entrusted to our care."

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### **About Muscogee County School District**

The Muscogee County School District is dedicated to providing an education that inspires and equips students to achieve their full potential and become productive citizens in a global society. Focusing on excellence, equity, and innovation, the district serves a diverse student population, fostering academic success, personal growth, and community engagement.

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