UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Update on School Safety Improvement

Upper Darby School District, in its ongoing work to ensure that student safety is its priority, wrote a grant for over $2.5 million for improved school safety and security in our elementary, middle and high schools.

Through Pennsylvania's Safe Schools Grant, all schools will receive additional building security systems. Safe schools improvements at Upper Darby High School include retrofitting of its main entrance for installation of airlock sensors that electronically interlock the doors. This prevents direct entry into the building without a visitor accessing a check-in kiosk where the Raptor visitor management system is employed for photo identity checks.

A one-button lock system will be installed at the middle and high schools which are designed to lock down the buildings more expeditiously in the case of an emergency. A swipe card system will be installed at all three secondary schools for employee entry and exit. Additional alarms are also being installed at each of the secondary schools. This summer, a core group of educators from each school received the start of training in Restorative Practices from SaferSaner Schools, a whole-school program that supports the improvement of school climate and culture by decreasing unsafe behavior and increasing prosocial interaction.

All schools will receive surveillance cameras and DVRs to record surveillance camera data. The CrisisGo safety mobile app will be used Districtwide to communicate emergency management information to parents, staff and stakeholders. Each school will receive CCTV video security monitors, exterior cameras and interior surveillance cameras. Included in the costs are camera installation for 188 exterior cameras and 188 exterior cameras in the 14 schools and licensing for the alarm sensors, 1-button lock and swipe card systems in the secondary schools.

"Upper Darby School District continues to take proactive steps in our approach to safety and security," states Lou Gentile, Director of Public Safety. These improvements

accompany existing school safety systems and improvements which include the addition of exterior cameras in all elementary schools, the installation of the Raptor system in all schools to track check-in and check-out times for visitors and volunteers across the District, Stop the Bleed training and kits received through the District Attorney's office, security guards at every school, the District's award-winning Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program, Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS), the addition of Elementary School Counselors and its Supportive Relationships Program.

The District expects to receive the Safe Schools awards letter within weeks. "The safety of our students, staff and visitors to our buildings is our number one priority," says Dr. Daniel McGarry, Superintendent of Schools. "We are excited to have been awarded the Safe Schools grant and look forward to continuing in our work of improving school safety and the environments in which our students learn. Our contractors and the bids are ready to go upon receipt of the funding."

Upper Darby School District will apply for the 2019-20 $450,000 competitive Safe Schools grant for use from March 2020 through March 2022. The District will also apply for a $45,000 meritorious safety grant for July 1 through June 30 for the 2019-20 school year.

Snapshot of 3-Year Safety Spending

2019-20	$12K District-Purchased Stop the Bleed kits and Districtwide training
2017-18	$20K Safe Schools Initiatives grant received through the Department of Education for the purchase of 52 cameras for elementary and middle schools
2016-17	$14,600 Safe Schools Initiatives grant received through the Department of Education for the purchase of 19 surveillance cameras for the high school and 30 portable/shoulder radios to communicate with all 14 schools through the district.

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