



Subcommittee Safety Message

The Student Affairs Subcommittee on Safety thanks everyone who attended the HTSD Safety Meeting and took the time to share questions, concerns, and ideas. The Board, administration, teachers, and staff share a common priority: ensuring that our schools remain safe, supportive environments where students can learn and thrive.

We recognize that school safety is an issue of great importance to our community. While physical security measures such as secured entrances, access controls, and security personnel play an important role, research and best practices consistently show that effective school safety strategies are broader in scope. Measures such as student support services, counseling resources, mental health programming, and strong relationships within the school community are also critical components of a safe school environment.

The Safety Subcommittee is currently reviewing studies, data, and best practices to evaluate the district's overall approach to school safety. This review will consider both physical security resources and the broader supports that contribute to a positive and secure school climate. The Subcommittee will also engage with peer school districts to better understand their safety programs and investments, including the rationale behind the adoption or non-adoption of specific security measures. In addition, the district will continue its ongoing collaboration with the Allegheny Intermediate Unit's Security Office.

Following this review process, any recommended changes or enhancements to the district's safety programs will be considered as part of the budget planning process for the 2026–2027 fiscal year.

The Subcommittee met on Monday, March 2, and intends to meet on a weekly basis for at least the next month to discuss and coordinate its members' efforts. We appreciate the community's engagement on this important topic and remain committed to carefully evaluating all options to ensure the safety and well-being of our students and staff.

Sincerely,

Student Affairs Subcommittee on Safety

Mr. Matt Jarrell

Mr. Bob Shages

Mrs. Jenny Kennedy

Mr. Jason Hobbes