

# Clinton Township School District Security

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Report to the CTSD Board of Education – February 26, 2018

Dr. Pamela Fiander, Superintendent of Schools

Recent tragic incidents remind us of the need to constantly re-evaluate the security of our schools. In the Clinton Township School District, we work closely with law enforcement officials to ensure that our staff and our students know what to do in an emergency. We continue to work on preventative measures and to remind our students that when they see something suspicious, it's critical to say something to an adult. And, our staff remains vigilant in working to meet the social and emotional needs of our students -- so that we can remain proactive in identifying potential risks.

## CURRENT SECURITY MEASURES

While I am not at liberty to discuss all of the steps that the district has taken in the areas of safety and security, I can tell you that over \$1.3 M has been invested in safety upgrades over the past few years. Some of the safety measures in our buildings include:

- Actively practicing fire, lockout, lockdown, shelter, evacuate and hold-in-classroom drills.
- Creating a single point of entry – to enter and exit through the front doors.
- Locking school entrances so that visitors must identify themselves before being “buzzed in.”
- Providing identification badges for visitors.
- Completing fingerprinting and background checks for all prospective employees.
- The ability to view video surveillance.
- Working closely with the District Resource Officer, who is often found visiting school grounds, to ensure the safety of our students.
- Encouraging students and staff to practice “see something, say something” and notify proper authorities if they feel an individual may pose a threat.

## TRAINING

Since 2013, our District has been beneficiary of a strong relationship with the Prosecutor’s Office and, in particular, Lt. Kevin Burd. Lt. Burd has made numerous visits to review safety procedures with both staff and administrators. As recommended, we use the *Standard Response Protocols* and consistently rehearse a variety of drills in all our schools. In our recent training and briefing on February 16th, Lt. Burd and John Michael Keyes (*I Love You Guys Foundation*) reminded us of the following facts.

- Average incident lasts less than 5 minutes – establish time barriers
- 60% of incidents are over before police can arrive on the scene.
- 20% of incidents are occurring in schools, while the greater majority are workplace issues in businesses.
- Social Media is a strong player in security incidents – it can be a source of information that is accurate, but can also be inaccurate.
- Increased signage is important for responders -- placing numbers on windows, doors, etc.

Also, each of our four schools has a Building Emergency Response Team (BERT), which meets at scheduled intervals to:

1. Review/Update Roles
2. Check Materials/Supplies
3. Check Communication List
4. Review Drills

Updated information is then provided to staff at faculty meetings, and substitute folders have information relevant to substitutes during drills, and all classrooms have the color-coded drill protocols on display by the exits.

## NEXT STEPS

Even with a number of security measures in place, and more on the horizon, we know there is always more that we can do to ensure the safety of our students and staff. The following measures are being implemented:

- Increasing police presence on school campuses
- Registering school personnel on *SHARE 911*
- Installing a swipe card system at each front door
- Improving room and window signage in all buildings
- Obtaining reunification kits
- Practicing a reunification drill

These measures are under review:

- Installing a driver's license scanning system that will alert school personnel of visitors' criminal activities. Visitors and non-district employees must show identification (driver's license) before entering a building.
- Wiring the district's surveillance camera system so it is accessible by law enforcement personnel.
- Conducting a security audit of all buildings via an outside vendor.

Lt. Burd and John-Michael Keyes noted in their recent presentation that "We are not experts, we are students." They said they learn something from every incident and from other professionals. No one has all of the answers, nor can anyone predict the future. What we do know is that **nothing is more important than the health and safety of the children**. This comes first – even over educating them. We take safety and security very seriously and, in working with law enforcement officials, the Board of Education, and the staff, we will continue to keep this at the forefront of our attention.

## RESOURCES

- I Love You Guys – Standard Response Protocol - <http://iloveuguys.org/>
- PTA - Parents and School Safety - <http://www.schoolsecurity.org/resource/parents-and-school-safety/>
- School Preparedness and Emergency Planning - <http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/security/resources/>