



**Byron Elementary School  
Q & A on School Safety Updates  
Updated May 2nd, 2023**



**Q: Is it safe to send children to school?**

Yes, it is safe to send your child to school. Safety continues to be our top priority at Byron Elementary School. All Peach County Schools have an organized, systematic emergency operations plan in place to reduce risks or prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from a crisis situation. These may range from a death or accident affecting a member of the school community to a natural disaster or crisis and affecting a lot of individuals in the school. We have a full SRO on campus at all times. At the start of the school year, all staff received specialized training on safety and security protocols and were asked to reinforce those protocols with students. As a result, students and staff are well-versed in how to handle an emergency situation.

The Peach County's Sheriff's Office is a recognized law enforcement agency established to create a safe and secure environment for our students and staff members. Peach County Schools is one of only a handful of districts in the nation to have its own SRO and that is because we want our families and staff members to know that we are available to respond to a crisis swiftly and effectively.

**Q: Is there a way to notify parents when the code red starts/ends?**

During an emergency, schools face unusual demands while having to maintain day-to-day operations. We must adapt to unexpected and unpredictable circumstances. A Code Red Lockdown means we have a life threatening emergency on our campus. When we are in a code red, the number one priority is to ensure that students and staff are safe. Until campus returns to code green, no communication is sent to families while we are in an active code. During a lockdown we ask parents to remain at home and await further instructions that we will send through our Remind communication tool and our website. We will communicate with you when and where students will be released. We will not be able to release students during a lockdown and parents will not be able to enter the campus. We need our roads clear for our first responders.

**Q: Will there be increased police presence the rest of the week with this being 2 days of threats?**

There will be extra Law Enforcement Officers from Byron PD and PCSO at both schools, beginning tomorrow before school starts and they will be there all day long for several days.

**Q: Could I ask why we don't get a call or text instead of hours later after the incident a letter?**

During an event, our sole focus is to ensure staff and students are safe. If notifications are sent out during an event, it could cause hysteria and upset parents coming to the campus to pick up their child. This could interfere with an incident and law enforcement could not secure the campus if parents or families were swarming the campus. In addition, things change throughout an event and not all information is ready to be shared or released. While an incident is taking place, students and staff are secured and safe in the building. I do my absolute best to get letters sent within a couple of hours.

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There are several layers of district personnel who read my letter and then get the go ahead to send to families. This also includes collaborating with law enforcement to ensure no information shared interferes with the investigation.

**Q: Why is this individual not being arrested so these things can't continue?**

After speaking with law enforcement, they have some potential leads in this case. We appreciate you reaching out and sharing your concerns. We are working closely with law enforcement to get this individual arrested as soon as possible. We are actively and aggressively investigating this case with the help of several outside agencies.

**Q: Is the threat to an individual or to the school?**

There was no concrete threat of anyone committing any certain act in the calls. It was more a vague statement from someone that appeared angry about something and stated they were coming down there in a few minutes.