

GROESBECK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Anthony Figueroa Superintendent of Schools

7/17/2023

For Immediate Release

Two months ago, I sent my monthly superintendent newsletter informing parents of our Guardian Program and new signage (see picture below). Being installed this week, signs will be posted on our campuses which state, "ATTENTION: GISD STAFF ARE ARMED AND TRAINED TO PROTECT OUR STUDENTS." 12"X12" signs will be attached to all building entrances, and larger 3'X3' signs will be displayed at all parking/drive way entrances.

Last year the Groesbeck ISD school board watched the devastation of schools across the country, being forced to prepare for the unthinkable – the potential of a school shooting, and considered appropriate policies. The Board updated local policy, authorizing a School Safety "Guardian" Program (TX Govt. Code 411.1901). Its purpose is to provide students and faculties an armed self-defense option prior to the arrival of Law Enforcement in the event of an active shooter or "active killer" on campus.

The Guardians are ISD staff members who have passed strict requirements and training. In order to protect them from becoming targets of an intruder, their names are confidential and are not to be released. I ask that names not be guessed at nor rumors passed in an attempt to protect these individuals.



Although the program has been in place for almost a year, the Board of Trustees approved for the district to make the program more visible. By providing the community this information and by placing signs up across the campuses, we are taking additional steps so that people know we are NOT an "easy target".

Only active law enforcement and Board approved GISD Guardians have the authority to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds. Only those who have gone through the extensive training and met all requirements will be allowed to carry. Please continue to be aware that any gun rumored to be on campus or seen on campus or its facilities should be reported immediately.

For more information, please contact District Administration at 254.729.4100

Superintendent