

Security and Safety Responses

September 12, 2018 [By Myers, Scott](#)

The need for a more secure school facility has never been more pressing. Unfortunately, every year tragedies take place at schools across the United States, so we are working diligently to ensure our students and staff members are as safe as possible. Toward that end, last year the Longhorn community voted in favor of raising the taxes on their property to provide much needed funding to provide monies to shore up the over-all safety and security of our school buildings.

Along with the construction projects to make the school buildings more secure – redesigned entry ways to the buildings, additional security cameras being installed – employees of the district now are all wearing district-issued identification badges and visitors to the buildings are required to wear temporary stickers/badges signifying they have permission to be in the school itself.

Along with all of that, we have also instituted a procedure for taking action if something potentially dangerous were to occur at school during school hours. Much as fire and tornado drills have taken place for years, we are having our students and staff members take part in a variety of Emergency Preparedness Drills throughout the year. These age-appropriate activities will stress proper strategies to make sure our people are safe and secure.

As a part of our response to situations that might occur, we will be utilizing Soft and Hard Lockdown strategies, depending on the situation at hand. In the event of a Soft Lockdown – **situations where there is NO threat of physical harm to anybody** – we will announce over the intercom system that we are in Soft Lockdown. This basically means the teachers are supposed to keep the students in the classroom and continue with class as normal. We just need the hallways clear to deal with something.

In the event there is a need for a Hard Lockdown, though, our responses will be different. In fact, if there is a dire situation taking place, along with calling 9-1-1, we will be having the teachers either go into a “shelter in place” response or move to get the students out of the building and to a safe location as soon as possible. **Obviously, if a Hard Lockdown were to take place, we will communicate this to you as quickly as possible.**

It really is great to be a part of the Longhorn Educational Community; ours is a special community full of caring and considerate people. As I said earlier, it is just unfortunate we have to concern ourselves with worrying about potential disasters within the learning environment, but the reality is we HAVE to be prepared in the event some potentially threatening event were to occur. The steps we are taking will set us up for success.