

Addressing Safety & Security in the Waynesboro Area School District

The safety and security of all students, staff and facilities is of the utmost concern for the Waynesboro Area School District (WASD). The District has been working towards improving safety & security equipment, strategies and personnel for years. Unfortunately, due to ongoing tragedies throughout the nation, WASD continues to strive for more and improved safety measures and precautions each and every year. Below outlines what's been done and will be done to improve safety and security.

Equipment

- Each WASD building has interior and exterior cameras used to monitor and record ongoing activity. All of the cameras are monitored during the scheduled school day.
- All of the schools have a secured vestibule. However, the district is working through its Facility Committee to address challenges in some of the buildings' vestibules. The vestibules include buzz-in devices, cameras, and security windows.
- The district is exploring the use of security film for vestibule glass. The film makes glass more bullet and break retardant.
- WASD has several metal detectors.

Personnel

- WASD employs one full-time police officer. The district has budgeted and advertised for a second police officer. It is the hope to have the second officer in place by the start of the 2022/23 school year.
- The district has MOU (Memorandums of Understanding) agreements with the Waynesboro Police Department, the Washington Township Police Department, and the Pennsylvania State Police (PSP). The MOUs provide that the police forces will work with WASD in the event of a safety & security situation. However, knowing that Mowrey Elementary School is over a half an hour from the closest PSP Barracks, if a safety event occurs all area police departments will respond. It is an "All hands-on deck" approach.
- The district also employs, in partnership with Franklin County, a juvenile probation officer. The probation officer is assigned to monitor and intervene as necessary with WASD students that have been adjudicated with a crime.
- WASD has added the services of Social Workers.

Procedures

- If a student makes a threat or other concerning signs arise, a Threat Assessment is given to the student. An evaluation of the results is then provided to school personnel in order to address risks that may exist. Threat assessment teams have been established at all of the WASD schools to review threats and threatening behavior.
- Visitors must provide identification. A cursory background check is performed to provide some assurance for entry to a building.
- Law enforcement agency drug dogs are used periodically to detect various controlled substances.
- All of the exterior doors of the schools are periodically checked during the day for security by staff members and the WASD Police.

Ongoing Learning

WASD utilizes a Safety & Security Team (SST). In the past, the SST was implemented in order to meet the requirements for saving on insurance premiums. The purpose of the team was to look at chemical safety and cleanliness. However, the SST is now responsible to review and recommend all safety and security in the district. Various building support staff, teachers, administrators and security personnel are part of that team. Local police department representatives have also joined the meetings. The SST meets monthly during the school year to review safety and security concerns that are brought up at each WASD building.

- Surveys are conducted periodically throughout the school year for feedback from the faculty of all of the buildings to ensure safety concerns are met.
- Training is conducted with the District staff to ensure they are familiar with in place emergency protocols, evacuation
- Training and drills are conducted with students of each of schools within the first marking period of each school year. This is to ensure all of the students are aware of evacuation routes and plans in place in case of emergency.
- Short term substitutes are provided with the building emergency plan and access to the district emergency plan to ensure they are familiar with the district's emergency plans.
- The Safe2Say something program is utilized by the District to receive anonymous reporting of safety and security concerns.

General

- For easier learning accessibility, WASD had used Student numbers at the elementary level for computer access. However, with recent challenges to security, a more secure sign-in process will be used by all students beginning the 2022/23 school year. Elementary and middle school students will be required to use more complex passwords and change their password on a regular basis for computer access.
- In addition, the district utilizes GoGuardian to manage and ensure student safety on all district devices. WASD also utilizes a NextGen firewall with intrusion prevention and deep-packet scanning technology to ensure all internet traffic is safe and secure from any vulnerabilities.