

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY IN DASD

DR. ROB REED – ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

MR. TIM HUBBARD – CHIEF SECURITY OFFICER

UPDATED: 5/26/22

CURRENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Chief Security Officer since 2014
- Raptor Visitor Management System
 - Tracks building visitors and allows for entry of special notations (child custody, etc)
- Secured Buildings:
 - Swipe card access for staff
 - Secure vestibules
 - Buzzed in access control
 - Covert facility hardening measures
- Video Surveillance
 - Over 1300 security cameras across 17 buildings
 - Currently DPD and UTPD have direct access

CURRENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Emergency Drills
 - Evacuation, secure building, severe weather, fire, and announced/unannounced lock down drills
- Canine sweeps at the high schools, middle schools, and 6th grade center (drugs, alcohol, and weapons)
- Security staff at secondary schools including armed officers: retired Police Officer at DHSE, armed off duty State Law Enforcement Officer and part time School Resource Officer from Downingtown PD at DHSW, Retired State Law Enforcement Officer at STEM, retired Police Officer at LMS, and a retired Federal Law Enforcement Officer at DMS
- 2-way radio systems for communication across all District buildings
- Magnets for door jams to rapidly secure doors in all K-12 schools
- “Go Kits” (10 per school) for all K-5 schools equipped with basic emergency supplies

CURRENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Regular visits and building walk throughs from law enforcement
- Annual Downtown Area School District Safety Summit
- 24/7 Emergency responder access to schools
- DASD Schools utilized as SWAT and First Responder training and testing sites
- Emergency plans updated and revised as needed
- Security personnel for athletic and certain larger after school events
- Bi-monthly meetings with Detectives from DPD, UTPD, UUTPD
- Watch D.O.G.S program implemented at all Elementary schools

CURRENT PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES

- Ongoing implementation of emergency alerting App
- Information sharing with other area school districts regarding security concerns
- Ongoing improvements to improve cellular and Wi-Fi signals within buildings
- Safe2Say anonymous tip line
- Securly student safety and device management solution
- Making Connections Program to enhance Law Enforcement and student relationships
- Threat Assessment process implementation
- New Phone system implemented allowing alternate method for building wide communication

TRAINING

- ALICE for Staff
- ACT (Attack Countermeasures Training) Certification for Principals (2013)
- Crisis Management Training: Expectations and Actions for Principals (2012)
- Faculty presentations by CSO and on-going emergency drills
- Mass Gathering Security Planning for CSO, Athletic Director, and Assistant Superintendent
- Attendance at annual CCIU Safety Symposiums
- Southeast PA Homeland Security Task Force summit attended by CSO
- Table Top exercise for District Office Personnel coordinated by Chester County Dept. of Emergency Services
- Limerick Nuclear Power Plant Radiological Emergency Response Drill for District Office and selected schools
- Incident Response to Terroristic Bombing training for CSO

POSSIBLE AREAS OF ENHANCEMENT OR UPGRADE

- Additional Armed Security Guards, SRO's, and/or Sworn School Police
- Additional Training for Staff: ALICE, Run, Hide, Fight, etc
- Panic buttons that are hard wired and/or app based
- Security for all large group gathering events at schools (concerts, musicals, etc)
- Student/Staff Programming
- Update Individual Building Threat Assessments
- Notification to office staff of expected visitors

POSSIBLE AREAS OF ENHANCEMENT OR UPGRADE

- Locked classroom door reinforcement
- Increase the number of lockdown drills
- Additional 2-way radios
- Increase video surveillance and explore options to share with first responders
- Additional reinforcing of large glass door/window areas
- Door alarm system for exterior doors during school hours
- Facility hardening