

# School Safety Overview

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# District Mission

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The Mission of Aiken County Public Schools, the unifying agent of new horizons and extraordinary possibilities, is to ensure all students thrive as future-ready, globally mindful, and productive citizens through a responsive and inclusive school system distinguished by:

- High quality and student-centered learning experiences
- Transformative, stakeholder partnerships
- A culture of purpose, innovation, and excellence

# We Believe

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- Each individual has inherent genius and value that benefit from inspiration and nurturing
- **Safe and secure environments are paramount for success**
- Access to equitable opportunities is a fundamental right for all
- Proactive and collaborative approaches cultivate growth and success
- Clear, precise communication that is inclusive and timely is essential for a successful system
- Responsible and accountable citizens demonstrate strength of character
- A community's stability and strength are rooted in its connectedness
- Embracing a changing world sparks innovation

# 2023-2028 School District Strategic Plan

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- Strategy 5: **Well Informed Community** that understands the districts “how's” and “whys”
- Parameters: We will promote **transparent communication** among stakeholders

# Communication Plans

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Make safety overview more readily available for parents to access



- More assuredness of what is in place for safety planning, preparedness, and practices for the district
- Safety and Security tab on the District website outlining the security measures currently in place

# Emergency Plans In Place

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- We have a comprehensive emergency plan that addresses threats such as weather emergencies, fire, active shooters, and utility failures
- Emergency Drills are conducted on a scheduled ongoing basis with students and staff
- Online courses, presentations, memos, and discussions are provided to staff members for training and information related to safety topics

# Threat Reporting, Detection, & Assessment

- ACPSD immediately responds to any concern of a threat that could impact school safety
- Threats are communicated to Law Enforcement
- ACPSD has a formal risk assessment instrument that is used by a team of trained staff to evaluate interventions and safety measures to be enacted

# Grant Fulfillment

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- Adoption and Implementation of “I Love U Guys” Framework for Standard Response Protocol and Standard Reunification Model



# Physical Security

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- ACPSD is continuing to increase physical security by employing fencing, surveillance cameras, electronic access controls, vestibules, doors, gates, and door locks to keep the campuses secure
- Visitor management protocols are in place for screening using Hall Pass
- ACPSD is Security focused and utilizing a “defense in depth” approach as it continues to increase the physical security of each campus. This concept uses barriers and systems to help deter, detect and delay a potential threat



# Site Assessments

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Site assessments are being conducted at every school, recommendations are being made, and concerns are being addressed as resources are available.

- Vestibules
- RFID
- Cameras
- Fencing
- Door handles, locks, open campuses, mobiles etc.



# School Resource Officers/ Security Personnel

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- 16 of our 43 schools in the district, to include CIL, have a full time SRO in their school from 4 different Law Enforcement agencies
- Strong MOU's and collaborative relationships exists between LE and administrations
- All SRO's must have Basic SRO training through SC Police Academy which includes Law Enforcement, Law related education, and Law related counseling
- Knox Boxes installed for Emergency Responders access to buildings

# Athletic Event Security

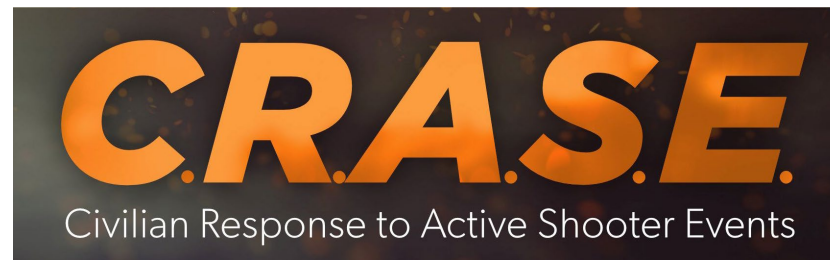
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- Local Law Enforcement at each game
- Private Security contracted for unarmed security
- Open Gate Weapons Detectors will provide an added security measure
- Clear Bag Rule implemented

## Areas of Focus

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- ACPSD will continue to request state funding for SRO's to be placed at each school in the district as officers become available
- CRASE training should be offered for schools to provide for their staff



# Threat Tip Line

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ACPSD Threat Tip Line for community partners, students, and parents to be able to report, anonymously and after hours.



# Future Initiatives

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- After a campus emergency, an after-action review is being conducted to identify areas of success as well as improvements related to prevention, crisis mitigation, response, and recovery
- After a major school safety incident, the Emergency Plans and Safety Practices are being reviewed and evaluated with emergency community partners against the facts of the incident
- Moving towards being able to send and receive calls via MS Teams in the classroom
- Labels to identify doors for emergency response
- Panic buttons for key staff to notify Law Enforcement
- Safety Hall Monitor positions implemented for Elementary Schools

# SC Coalition for Safer Schools

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- **Proposed School Safety Agenda for upcoming legislation**
  - In School Factors:
    - Mental Health services
    - Staffing and SRO's
    - School Facilities
    - Prevention Programs
    - Mandatory responses



# Questions?

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