

WILLINGBORO PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WILLINGBORO, NEW JERSEY 08046-2847



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March 6, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the wake of the recent tragic school shootings in Florida, I want to assure you that we take the safety and security of our students and staff very seriously. Our district has a close partnership with the Willingboro Police Department, Fire Department and Emergency Services Department. Representatives from all three departments are a part of our Emergency Management Committee.

Listed below are several safety and security measures currently in place, designated to safeguard students and to affect positive student learning in the classroom:

- **Visitor Registry**- All Visitors are required to register with the front office or security. A driver's license or some form of photo ID is required. Passes are required for all visitors;
- **District Identification Badges**- All district secondary students and staff have been issued ID badges;
- **Controlled Access**- All exterior doors are remotely controlled and/or monitored. This allows for quicker response time in the event of an emergency in which doors need to be accessed or locked;
- **Security Personnel**- The district has a team of trained security officers and safety officers (retired police officers) strategically located throughout the district;
- **School Resource Officer (SRO) Program**- Since 2004 school resource officers from the Willingboro Police Department have been assigned to the district;
- **Closed Circuit Television**- Interior and exterior security cameras are placed throughout the district to monitor and record activity or incidents on school property;
- **Security Drills**- Security drills consisting of lockdowns, lockouts, and evacuations are mandated monthly by the State. Effective March, 2018 unannounced random active shooter drills will be conducted by the Office of Safety and Security. This will be in addition to the state mandated monthly security drills;
- **Safety and Security Training**- Staff training is conducted throughout the year during our professional development days, online training, and meetings;
- **Safety and Security Plan**- This is a state mandated multi-hazard emergency operations plan which encompasses many issues designed to prepare the district for a multiplicity of emergency events. School crisis response teams should discuss these issues throughout the year in order to be prepared to respond in a timely manner should an incident occur;
- **Security Screening**- Secondary schools are equipped with walk-through metal detectors, baggage x-ray machines and wands;
- **Safe Schools Emergency Management Quick Reference Guide**- The Quick Reference Guide is a supplement to the comprehensive Safety and Security Plan (Emergency Management). The quick reference guide format has been developed to assist the staff in finding information very quickly during an emergency situation; and,

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- **Crisis Communications**- The district has a system in place whereby key administrators are informed of an emergency situation. In turn, parents can be informed within a short period of time through the Robo Calling System and district website (www.willingboroschools.org). The goal is to quickly and accurately communicate essential information to first responders, district staff, parents, and the community that the safety of your children is maintained throughout an event.

Ralph Waldo Emerson wrote, “*Sorrow makes us all children again. Destroys all differences. The wisest know nothing.*” I am sure that you, like me, are struggling to make sense of the tragedy in Florida. We also are trying to find words to help our children feel safe and resilient in a world that sometimes feels unpredictable and scary. My only advice is to keep hugging your children, tell them you love them, and let them know that you and the important people in their lives are there to keep them safe.

The safety issues confronting our nation and community are serious. We know that parents, students, and staff will work together to help maintain a focus on teaching and learning in our schools, as we address this continuing situation. Thank you in advance for your cooperation, as we work together to ensure the safest environment for our students, staff and community.

Yours in education,



Dr. Ronald G. Taylor,
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Willingboro Board of Education
Members, Superintendent’s Cabinet