



WINNSBORO INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Susan Morton
Superintendent

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Torri Miller
Assistant Superintendent

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Dear Parents/Guardians;

School safety is on the mind of every parent, student, and school employee today. In light of recent events and subsequent discussions, we have received questions about what WISD is doing to ensure that our children are able to work daily in an atmosphere where they can focus on learning. WISD administrators are taking a proactive approach to this issue, and we want to take this opportunity to let you know what we are doing – and what you can do to help from home.

First, it is important for you to know that WISD has always followed guidance provided from the Texas School Safety Center, and we will continue to look for updated information. In addition to basic safety practices and recommended drills, we have always asked adults on campus to be visible during passing periods, and we have a full-time School Resource Officer who is visible during the school day, as well as at school events. We are fortunate that our facilities are in close proximity to the Winnsboro Police Department; we have a program in place called CopSync that instantly alerts law enforcement officials in the city and all three counties should an emergency arise.

Second, we have done much in recent years to upgrade some safety features in our facilities. In the last two years, interior door locks have been replaced in all buildings to meet recommended safety requirements. Security cameras throughout the district have increased in number and use, and these have proven valuable as they can be monitored in real time from remote locations. And, when construction begins, we plan to have upgrades to existing facilities that include a security vestibule at the main entrance to each building.

Recently, a committee consisting of school employees, local law enforcement officials, and community members met to discuss other viable options for protecting students and staff. Many ideas were generated from this discussion, and we are investigating the pertinent legalities. Our hope is that this committee will play an integral role in helping to formulate a plan that is suitable for WISD.

Until that plan is properly formulated and vetted, we will have other measures in place. We have contracted with local law enforcement to have officers patrolling the campuses daily. We are placing new signs on the campuses, alerting everyone that armed officers are prepared to protect our students and staff. We will continue to ensure that adults on campus are visible throughout the day. We will be meeting with students soon to discuss how they can help us keep our campuses more secure. We will also be teaching students how to use an anonymous reporting tool to help alert us to any suspect activity.

What can you do to help? At home, please make opportunity to talk to your students about their interactions with others. In today's volatile society, it is not a joking matter to discuss firearms, explosives, or threaten to harm others. For WISD school personnel, every comment or action that presents a potential threat will be taken seriously and acted upon accordingly.

Here in WISD, we often say that everyone's last name is Winnsboro. We truly have a great family atmosphere in this district – attend any event and you can clearly see that. We have a present need to rally around our family to help each other keep our schools safe for our children. We appreciate your help in this endeavor. As always, we appreciate your comments or concerns.

Sincerely,


Susan Morton, Superintendent