Fulton County Schools
Where Students Come First

School Safety

www.fultonschools.org/safety   questions@fultonschools.org

Fulton County
Board of Education

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Fulton County Schools is committed to providing safe and secure learning environments. Our Board of Education makes annual, ongoing investments that provide safety and security to our physical buildings and also has programs in place that focus on the social and emotional well-being of our students and staff. These investments have increased in recent years, broadening the support provided to all.

Safety Support Systems Provided to Schools

School Police Officers and Safety Personnel
Fulton County Schools has one of the largest school police forces in Georgia. As one of only three school police departments certified by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP), our 62 sworn officers are ready to respond to any situation. In 2014, the police department was reorganized by learning community to provide better service, leadership support of schools, more nimble response, and better command and control. Finally, 12 officers are SWAT certified. On February 27, 2018, the School Board increased its support of safety by creating six additional school resource officer positions.

In addition to our police force, our School Board and local school leaders invest in an additional 34 non-sworn personnel called campus security associates (CSAs). These personnel assist in securing schools and buildings throughout the district. CSAs receive annual training from our Safety and Security Team and support our local school leaders to further meet the safety needs of our communities. The School Safety Officer Course is a three-day/24-hour training course for non-sworn safety and security officers working in schools with a School Resource Officer (SRO) or alone.

Safety Training
School safety coordinators and school leaders receive annual safety training, which includes reviewing active shooter protocols. Recently, all school leaders were retrained on our protocols, and these have been redelivered to all school-based staff. Student Health Services staff provide ongoing AED, CPR, and first aid training, and all clinic staff receive annual training regarding response protocols.

FCS MOBILE APP.
Download on the App Store   ANDROID APP ON Google play

Quick Tip Feature on FCS App
Fulton County Schools has a "Quick Tip" function on our FCS app (available for iOS and Android phones) to report concerns anonymously. The tool provides an easy way to "see something, say something." Reports of a threat also may be emailed to **safety@fultonschools.org** or reported through **https://asp.schoolmessenger.com/fultonschools/quicktip**.

Safety Plans/Reporting/Drills

Each school has a safety plan that is reviewed annually by school leadership and district safety staff and also is reported to the State of Georgia/Georgia Emergency Management Agency. School Board policy requires all schools to complete evacuation, shelter, soft lockdown, and hard lockdown drills. Evacuation drills are required monthly and other drills are required at the start of the school year as well as at the beginning of second semester.

Mass Communication/Notification Systems

The school system uses SchoolMessenger as its district-wide emergency communications tool. The tool can be used to notify all students and/or staff in a school, a learning community, or district-wide via phone call or email. In addition, Transportation team members use a tool called "Bus Bulletin" to notify bus riders' parents regarding emergencies/incidents by assigned bus.

Safety Investments Through eSPLOST

Our taxpayers have funded additional improvements in facilities, technology, and equipment to support safety through the one-penny sales tax for education called eSPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax).

Front Entry Controls/Visitor Identification Systems

All Fulton County Schools are equipped with front door entry controls. After student arrival all exterior doors are locked, and visitors and students must be granted access by personnel in the front office. These devices are located at the entrance of every school and are equipped with cameras, intercoms to the front office, and a notification button. Visitors are required to push the button to ring the front office staff, who can view and question visitors via a video phone system, and then determine whether to unlock the front door for entry.

Front Entry Additions/Reconfigurations

Several of our older high schools recently received front entry additions that enhance safety, creating clear entry points for our community. The new atriums increase visibility and access control at the entrance of the school.
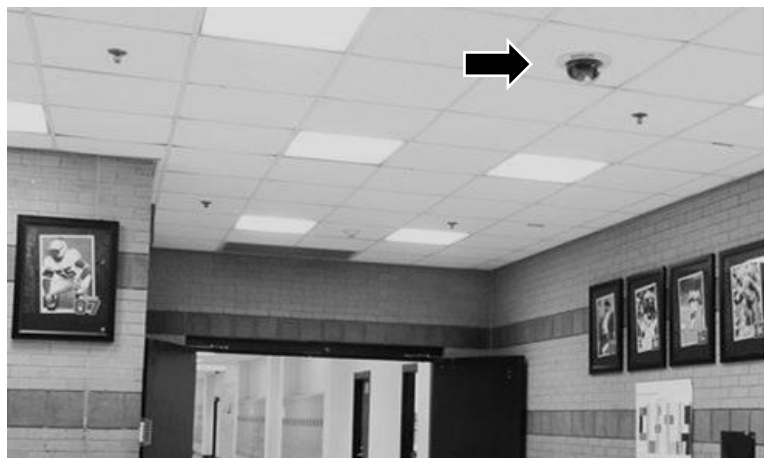
Avigilon Video Surveillance Systems

Using SPLOST funds, the district is upgrading camera systems in every school to Avigilon, one of the nation's leading video surveillance systems. These systems allow our safety and security teams to monitor activities in and around facilities with laser sharp accuracy via desktop computers, non-portable monitoring stations or mobile devices.

In addition, district office personnel, local school leaders and/or building managers can search for reported activities that have occurred for investigative purposes or monitor activities for mitigation purposes. High tech lenses allow the users to pan the cameras throughout a pre-determined range, zoom in for a closer view, or change the angles of the view – all in high definition quality. The artificial intelligence (AI) component of this technology allows for users to find targets within the facility based upon a tagged "appearance search." This type of technology is currently used at our nation's major airports as well as other highly secured environments.

Also, Fulton County Schools has partnered with Sandy Springs Police and CHATCOM 911 so that in emergencies they have direct access to view the Avigilon cameras in Sandy Springs schools. Discussions are under way to add this capability to the Alpharetta Police Department and Johns Creek Police Department.

Visitor Management System
All schools are equipped with a visitor management system called "Raptor." Visitors register in the building at the time of arrival, and their information is checked against state/national sex offender databases as well as local school police databases.

Bus Surveillance Systems
In the past five years, all school buses in the Fulton County School System fleet have received video surveillance system upgrades. Each bus is equipped with four video cameras, which provide surveillance of activities within the buses and can assist our team in investigating behaviors that affect student safety.

Equipping Officers/School Police Fleet Expansion
The FCS School Police fleet includes 42 vehicles, which not only provides greater visibility of our school police, but also increases mobility of our officers, the ability to patrol all schools, and the capability for emergency response. We will continue to ensure our law enforcement and safety teams are equipped to respond quickly to all situations. Investments include body armor and a school report management system which will permit easier access to criminal records among metro police departments.

Law Enforcement Communications
FCS School Police will begin participating in the nationwide FirstNet public safety broadband and cellular network. AT&T, in a public-private partnership with FirstNet, will operate and maintain a highly secure wireless broadband communications network for Georgia's public safety. With the power of priority and pre-emption, first responders will no longer have to compete with non-emergency users for a connection and can reliably connect to the network for information needed instantly.

Electronic Emergency Response Protocols/Internal Communications
The School Board approved a new tool called CrisisGo, which quickly distributes emergency operations plans to staff, via mobile devices, during emergency situations. Over a three-year cycle, this technology will replace the traditional paper emergency plans. It will be rolled out in phases starting in March 2018, with full implementation anticipated by Spring 2019.

Social-Emotional Learning Support Systems
Social-Emotional Learning Programs are in many schools to support students' development as well as personal safety and good decision-making.

Text A Tip Pilot
"Text A Tip" is a pilot program in five high schools – Cambridge, Milton, Roswell, Westlake and Langston Hughes – that began in January 2018 through a partnership with the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. Those who use the app can be connected anonymously to a licensed mental health professional for immediate mental health resources and referrals, 24 hours a day/7 days a week. The goal is to expand the program to additional schools in the near future.

Mental Health Agencies and Partners in Fulton County Schools
Fulton County Schools developed a protocol in 2013 to allow mental health partners to provide services in schools. Students may access mental health providers on campus should they need that level of support and should their parents desire that option for them.

Student Crisis Response Protocol
The student crisis response protocol is used by all FCS counselors, school social workers and school psychologists when a student is suspected to be at risk for harm to self or others. Immediate mental health resources are provided to families. Re-entry meetings are held once a student returns to school to ensure that effective transitioning takes place and to document a plan for addressing the needs and safety of the student and others.

CARE Team
CARE (Care Response and Recovery) team members are deployed whenever schools experience the death of a student or staff member. The focus is on recovery and grief support to maintain order in the school and to allow for ventilation and validation of emotions. FCS counselors, social workers, and psychologists are trained annually on these procedures.

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training
Mental health first aid training has been provided to 600+ FCS staff and community members. The training provides education and awareness of mental health for those who work with children and youth.

APEX Grant Funding for Mental Health Providers
The APEX grant supports the provision of mental health services for students in several of our schools. This option allows for equity-based services for families experiencing financial need.

PEAK Academies
<u>P</u>ursuing <u>E</u>xcellence <u>A</u>nd <u>K</u>nowledge (PEAK) Academies provide academic, social, behavioral and emotional supports for students who are suspended (short-term or long-term) for serious code of conduct offenses, many of which exhibit mental health challenges. There are three PEAK Academies in our school system – North Fulton, South Fulton and Southeast Fulton.

School Counselors, School Social Workers and School Psychologists
All FCS student support personnel are trained to identify and refer students who may be experiencing mental health, social or behavioral issues.

Behavioral Specialists
FCS currently has nine behavioral specialists who work with schools to identify students with behavioral needs and then assisting them by training and supporting on the implementation of behavioral intervention.

Think First, Stay Safe (K-5)
This program contains instruction on personal safety, online safety, and school climate which supports the K-5 health curriculum. Students learn important information to help keep them protected from unsafe behaviors and situations.

Online Resources

Fulton County Schools has a special Safety and Security webpage (**www.fultonschools.org/safety**) where resources can be accessed, including this tipsheet from the National Association of School Psychologists on how to talk to children about violence. To view this PDF, visit **www.tinyurl.com/NASPsafety** or download it from **www.fultonschools.org/safety**.