



SCPS Safety & Security Measures

The Somerset County Public School system is continually examining and evaluating the safety and security measures present and available within and around all of our facilities in order to provide a safe and secure learning and working environment.

Below is a sample listing of measures currently in place:

- A. All school buildings are secured with established electromagnetic security locks.
- B. All school buildings and buses are equipped with security cameras in critical, high traffic areas. These systems are updated and expanded each year as funding becomes available and as technology evolves.
- C. All school buildings are equipped with fire and burglar alarms that are monitored 24/7. In the event that an alarm is activated, all systems are equipped to place immediate calls to emergency services.
- D. All schools have identified Crisis Management Teams and are equipped with emergency response kits and School Crisis Plans.
- E. Each School Crisis Plan establishes specific steps to address a variety of events to include, but not limited to, school safety lockdowns, active shooter, bomb threats, environmental and utility-related emergencies.
- F. Each School Crisis Plan includes school-site specific information pertaining to evacuation procedures, rally points and recovery locations.
- G. Each School Crisis Plan has been updated to utilize research and best practices recommended by local and state law enforcement agencies.
- H. Safety drills and training connected to the steps outlined in the School Crisis Plans are ongoing and coordinated with local and state law enforcement agencies.
- I. Each School Crisis Plan establishes necessary steps to assist students with special needs in the event of an emergency.
- J. School Resource Officers are available and assigned to assist with security and safety protocols.
- K. Communication procedures are in place to notify parents, staff, students and emergency services in the event of a crisis.
- L. Regular patrols of school grounds are conducted by local and state law enforcement agencies.
- M. County school safety meetings are held and attended by local and state law enforcement agencies, emergency services, school administrators, student services staff, and community support and health agencies to evaluate school safety and security procedures and initiatives.
- N. Criminal background checks are conducted on all school staff, contractors, bus drivers, coaches, and anyone having direct access to students.
- O. At each elementary school a Visitor Management System performs immediate sex offender checks on all visitors. Visitors are required to wear a photo identification badge generated by this system. Immediate notifications are forwarded to school administrators and central office staff if an offender attempts to visit a school utilizing this system.
- P. Student support services are provided through counseling services, behavior intervention specialists, special education services, mindfulness practices, and other related service providers.
- Q. There are safety procedures in place for field trips traveling outside of the County to heavily-populated areas such as Baltimore, Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York City. The approval process of these field trips includes a check of the current threat assessment with the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center (MCAC).

The Somerset County Public School system is committed to providing a safe and secure learning and working environment for all of our students, staff, parents, and community members.