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Dear Parents and ISD Community Stakeholders:

School safety is a priority at the Indiana School for the Deaf.

The tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida upset us all greatly. Our love goes out to all those affected in that community. Any incident like this always reminds us of the importance of reviewing our safety plan. We acknowledge that no safety protocol is 100% foolproof. Yet, we strive for the best safety plan for our ISD community on the campus.

We, as the Indiana School for the Deaf, work closely with law enforcement, first responders, and emergency personnel at the local, county and state level to ensure the safety of all on our campus and in our buildings. The safety of our students, parents, employees, and visitors is a priority. We are continually learning and monitoring to strengthen our safety plans.

We are very grateful that the General Assembly has approved the Visual Communication System (VCS) capital project. They have demonstrated that they understand the importance of visual-based lockdown capacity that comes with VCS. It is now at the State Budget Agency waiting for approval.

Later this year we will host an active shooter class with the Alice Training Institute. The Indiana Department of Education reviewed our Emergency Preparedness Plan last year (2017) and approved our plan.

We are confident in our Emergency Preparedness Plan, but it is always evolving as we discover new and improved opportunities to maximize safety.

When a safety concern arises, our team thoroughly reviews the incident to determine what adjustment may be needed for the safety of our students and staff. Below I have listed some of the safety measures currently in place at the Indiana School for the Deaf:

#### **Current Security Measures in Place at ISD**

- Emergency Preparedness Plan is in place and available to staff for review via our intranet; includes preventive lockdown, lockdown, and evacuation procedures;
- Doors are always locked;
- Brivo door access is monitored by Campus Police that controls access to campus buildings;
- Campus Police receive training for certification as School Resource Officers (SROs);

- ISD keeps track of prohibited individuals/visitors through a list and Hall Pass Visitor Management System;
- All exterior gates on campus are locked with the exception of dismissal times;
- Visitors are monitored through our check in process utilizing Hall Pass Visitor Management System;
- Alertus is our Emergency notification system which includes a desktop computer takeover feature to notify our staff and on campus community of emergencies;
- Staff in each of our buildings monitors access to individual locations on campus;
- Campus Police officers work weekend events on campus;
- Campus Police has a certified K9 trained in Narcotics detection and tracking;
- Campus Police receive training in active shooter counter measures; and
- Through membership in the Marion County Safe Schools Commission, ISD receives current trend information related to school safety.

In closing, I would add that it is important for all of us to work together in an effort to maintain a safe environment. Please report all suspicious behaviors to the authorities, including those comments observed on social media. Thank you for your continued support of the Indiana School for the Deaf. I welcome your feedback and questions.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Geeslin  
Superintendent/CEO