

Information

February 23, 2018

To: All JISD Stakeholders
From: Bill Avera, M.S., Chief of Police & Emergency Manager 
Subject: School Safety Statement

In light of the horrific school shooting tragedy in Parkland, Florida, I wanted to update you on the state of readiness in Jacksonville ISD. While we know that not all attacks are preventable, we can definitely mitigate our vulnerability by remaining vigilant, conducting drills & safety audits, training, and threat assessments.

Here are several observations:

- Each campus is equipped with a lockdown button which immediately transmits a message to the District Police when activated.
- We maintain an extensive internal and external security camera network which is in real time.
- All JISD PD officers receive on going school based training from various sources.
- All campuses have completed the required Safety Audits & conducts drills as required throughout the school year.
- We collaborate with the Texas School Safety Center on a routine basis in order to keep abreast of current best practices in school safety.
- All campuses have a Crisis Management plan that is reviewed on an ongoing basis.
- We interact with our local, county, and state law enforcement partners to maintain situational awareness on threats that might be received.
- We monitor social media when we become aware of a perceived threat and investigate accordingly.
- We work with our community partners to address mental health concerns.
- We encourage our stakeholders to “See Something – Say Something” if they observe suspicious activities on or near our campuses.

As you’ve no doubt heard, the lack of adequate mental health facilities and funding in our nation and state have many concerned that we are not doing enough to identify and treat those type of conditions. To that end, we partner with Access and are involved with them in community engagement.

Finally, threat assessments are constantly conducted across the district to ensure that we identify and address any vulnerabilities that are discovered.

