



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 27, 2018

CONTACT:

Charlotte LaGrone

Weatherford ISD Executive Director of Organizational Culture

817-598-2956

clagrone@weatherfordisd.com

John Tarrant

Weatherford ISD Director of Marketing and Communications

817-598-2948

jtarrant@weatherfordisd.com

Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees Address Safety and Security in Weatherford ISD

As members of the Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees, we have watched as the recent tragedies unfolded at schools in Italy, Texas and Parkland, Florida thru the lens of a parent and as a board member. Our hearts go out to these school districts and their communities.

While we all grieve for those involved in these tragedies, we also understand that such events may cause concern for our students, staff, parents, and community. As a result, we want to reassure our students, parents, staff, and community of the multiple safety processes we have in place in Weatherford ISD. Maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff is an ongoing process, so we also want to provide you with information regarding additional safety enhancements we are considering for our schools.

The following safety processes are in place at schools in Weatherford ISD:

- All campuses have secured entrances as a result of the 2015 bond approved by our community. The bond also provided further safety enhancements to our campuses including the installation of additional security cameras, perimeter keyless entries, classroom intruder function door hardware, and additional parking lot lighting. In addition, all staff have been directed to keep all classroom doors locked as an added safety measure.
- We have four School Resource Officers (SROs) in Weatherford ISD. An SRO is a sworn Weatherford Police officer assigned to a school on a long-term basis trained to perform three major roles: law enforcement officer, law-related counselor and law-related educator. In addition, the officer works in collaboration with the school and the community as a resource for safety and security issues. The SRO also provides a highly visible presence to deter crime and to identify trespassers on campus.

- Every campus is equipped with the Raptor identification system for campus visitors. This system provides staff the ability to scan a driver's license or other form of ID and runs that person's information through sex offender databases.
- Volunteers for all campuses undergo a criminal background check annually through the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- All campuses regularly practice mandatory safety/weather drills, including a Lockdown Drill, which is designed for an intruder situation.
- WISD administrators partner with local law enforcement agencies for safety summits and trainings including mock drills.
- Weatherford ISD provides a mechanism for students, staff, and parents to submit concerns through the Anonymous Tips link located on the right side of every campus website. Submitters have the option of providing contact information or may report anonymously. Administrators take every tip seriously and investigate fully.
- We continue to reinforce the importance of reporting unsafe conditions or suspicious behavior to our students.

In addition, last week Weatherford ISD implemented a planned safety training for all students and staff. This training, developed by the Texas School Safety Center and the [i love you guys® Foundation](#), was recently attended by District staff and is designed to enhance the safety processes that are already in place at all campuses for the following situations: lockout, lockdown, evacuate, shelter in place, and hold in place.

Future Safety Considerations

Although we have several layers of safety processes in place at all campuses, we embrace our responsibility to continue to study additional safety measures. Below are some safety enhancements currently being considered:

- Implementing a student ID program
- Bus tags for our students who travel to school on Weatherford ISD buses
- Adding additional School Resource Officers
- Adding crisis intervention counselors
- Equipping each classroom with locked safes to hold safety vests, pepper spray, and trauma kits
- Implementing a concealed carry program, a program we've been researching since July 2017.
 - We will follow a defined process similar to a program implemented by Anna ISD that includes gathering input from parents, community members, and staff as we consider the option of implementing a conceal carry program. This is an important decision for our school district and one that will not be taken lightly.

As school board members, the safety of our students and staff remains our highest priority. Maintaining a culture of safety is an ongoing process. We must carefully review additional safety measures to protect our Weatherford ISD family. We want our families and community to know that we embrace this responsibility and understand the gravity of our decisions. Our goal is to maintain a balance between a welcoming atmosphere for students, parents, and the community while providing the safest environment for our students and staff.

Jeff Geyer
 President
 Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees

#####