

Secondary School Safety Advisory Committee Recommendations

The West Linn-Wilsonville Secondary School Safety Advisory Committee had four areas of focus:

1. **Protocol** — Supplemental protocol and tools to enhance current safety protocols.
2. **Emergency Tools** — Emergency classroom supplies and lock fail safes.
3. **Communication/Resources** — Community, Resources, and Data Gathering.
4. **Prevention** — Mental Health Resources, Social Media Health

Protocol — Standard Response “Locks, Lights Out..”

Perceived Strengths: Use of specific vocabulary that creates a common language in our schools for emergencies.

Concern: Locks — Teachers have to open doors to lock and unlock doors; they can only secure their classroom (teachers aren’t always in or near their classrooms, not all staff members stay in one place all day).

Recommendations (High Priority): Change locks to unlock/lock from inside classrooms, make them universal. (You can lock/unlock any door in the school from the INSIDE. Outside locks would still only open with site-specific key).

Other considerations, all of which can be learned at school and taught by First Responders:

1. Stop, Drop and Roll
 - a. Fire Safety Plan for Home: Given by teachers as homework
2. Earthquake Evacuation Drills
3. Stranger Danger
4. D.A.R.E./Say No To Drugs (supported/promoted by the Reagan Administration)
5. Nuclear Power Meltdown Drills

New addition to this list: Active Threat Training, or per Clackamas County Department of Emergency Management calls Active Shooter Training.

Concern: Lockout/Lockdown Protocols do not provide the tactical tools students and staff need in an active threat situation, or in a situation outside of their regular classroom, or before and after school, at sporting events, at lunch, etc. Teachers and students are bringing this up as a concern.

According the “I Love You Guys” (Current Protocol) Foundation:

“Tactical Responses-SRP also acknowledges that some school incidents involve a tactical response from law enforcement, and suggests consulting with local law enforcement for specific, simple actions in that event.”

Recommendations:

1. Add Active Shooter Training to current protocol.
 - a. Training fo staff is performed by Clackamas County Sheriff Department. NO COST; takes 90 minutes. (Note: this is a recommended by law enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security).

- b. Officers can give vital info to staff members about indicators of violent tendencies.
 - c. Presents to high school and middle school students, thereby developing relationships with students.
 - d. Fosters more community/police positive engagement; possibility of a community-wide training.
2. Interior Barricades: Add door barricade and classroom barricade to drills for added protection for staff and students, and added deterrent to active threat. Department of Homeland Security and Law Enforcement recommend barricades and active threat protocols for the last two decades.

Emergency Tools and Supplies

Perceived Strengths: First responder teams at each school site, teachers have first aid training.

Concerns:

- Lack of comprehensive emergency supplies/equipment within classrooms.
- Locks fail or don't work or can't be checked. Is there a tool that teachers/staff can use to barricade a door in this scenario?

Recommendations:

- Emergency Backpacks kept in each classroom including school drill emergency binder with class lists.
- Emergency water supply in each classroom.
- Emergency bathroom (buckets with kitty litter or trash).
- All windows need covers like blinds; protects from shattering glass while keeping light.
- Safety Masks as used in Japan (\$10-12).
- Locks – lock and unlock any door from inside (panic bar doors get special lock fail safes).
- Lock fail safes to classrooms per law enforcement and fire code guidance.

Communication

Perceived Strengths: Alerts working, Listserv, district facility report an issue on website.

Concerns: School website lack important safety information; i.e. what are the drills, what are students trained to do, where do we go in emergencies; what do we bring (ID, etc.).

To keep the dialogue open, perform a climate/safety survey for teachers, staff, parents, and students.

Recommendations:

- More community engagement with respect to safety and protocols – SRO videos, active threat training, safety info posted on school sites.
- Survey parents, students, and teachers regarding school safety/school climate. Use data to drive areas of focus in addition to expert advice from law enforcement – facilities, training, curriculum.
- When potential threats are reported, the district should always follow up with community no matter what school it is.

Prevention

Mental Health: Maintaining a healthy student body is our first priority, and the most important step in prevention. Mental health includes: preventing bullying, supporting depressed students, working to create an inclusive community, and improving teacher-student relationships.

Perceived Strengths:

- The SafeOregon Tip Line.
- Counselors and administration truly foster a caring environment and take concerns seriously.
- Protocol is in place for teacher support from counselors when needed quickly.

Concerns:

- Assess and address mental and social-emotional wellness.
- Health/Safety and the Internet.
- Are teachers/parents/students aware of the “red flags” for mental health issues?

Recommendations:

- Survey students and teachers about school safety, climate, and overall wellness. Lots of easy resources for surveying.
- Address mental health issues through “asset” building programs and curriculum.
- Research Colorado model (Safe2Tell) and what other schools in other states are doing (Risk Management personnel from the district could fill this role).

SafeOregon Tip Line

Perceived Strengths: Extremely effective communication, intervention and prevention tool.

Concerns: How it could be better due to its importance?

- Are students and school administration clearly aware and familiar with SafeOregon, why it is important, and how it works?
- Is it being promoted enough?
- Are there enough resources to manage and follow through with tips?

Recommendations:

- Research Colorado’s Safe 2 Tell model; reporting tool is more comprehensive (more details, allows uploading of pictures/social media posts), more resources for students, parents and schools.
- Promote more (school and community), highlight importance of tattle vs. tell, ensure students understand complete anonymity.

Personnel

Strengths: We have School Resource Officers.

Concerns: Lack of full-time SROs dedicated to one campus.

Recommendations: Add full-time SROs