

# Safety and Security in West Linn-Wilsonville Schools

April 3, 2023

Dear WLWV Community,

We grieve with the families in Nashville, Tennessee, where another school shooting tragically took the lives of three students and three staff early last week. As we resume school today, we know this horrific event weighs heavily on the minds of our students, staff, parent-guardians, and community members.

Please know that the safety and wellbeing of our students is the West Linn-Wilsonville School District's first priority. We would like to remind families of just some of the measures that are in place in our schools to address student safety in hopes to inform and reassure our community.

## **School District has Contracted with National Safety Consultant TrueNorth**

In 2016, the school district contracted national safety and security consultant TrueNorth (then called Elert and Associates) to review and improve safety and security measures across West Linn-Wilsonville schools. The comprehensive review resulted in a number of safety priorities that the district has since implemented, including Emergency Operation Plans, building upgrades, and adjustments to standard response protocols. This fall, TrueNorth conducted another review of district-wide safety and security practices for reassessment. The process is ongoing and will lead to continued updates

We would like to provide just a small snapshot of some of the safety and security measures that have been implemented. To learn more about the district's three-tiered approach to safety and security, including our routine review of practices, please visit the [district website's safety and security webpage](#).

## **Safe and Secure Entryways**

One key step the district has taken in regards to safety and security is the implementation of secure school entryways. Moving to buzzed entryway systems this school year, visitors are required to enter schools through secure entryway vestibules during the school day, with all other perimeter doors remaining locked.

Intrusion-limiting glass has been installed in key areas in addition to lockdown hardware. This allows schools to monitor access during the school day and know who is in our buildings at all times.

## **Lockdown Hardware**

Lockdown hardware allows staff to immediately lock all perimeter and classroom doors with the touch of a button in the event of an emergency. Our schools regularly practice Lockdown and Secure drills during the school year through our Standard Response Protocols.

## **Standard Response Protocols**

All schools regularly practice standard response protocols (SRPs) in alignment with guidance from local first responders and the national [I Love U Guys Foundation](#). The five main protocols include Lockdown, Secure, Evacuation, Shelter-in-Place, and Hold. These protocols are applied based on the situation and circumstances. Families are alerted immediately in the event that any of our Standard Response Protocols are implemented or if there is an emergency event at a school. To review SRPs, please visit the [district website](#).

**Safety Work is Ongoing**

Safety work is ongoing and new situations often identify areas for improvement. School leaders meet quarterly with local first responders, School Resource Officers, and safety experts to review protocols and practice through the use of table top exercises. To learn more about the district's approach to safety and security, including our routine review of practices, please visit the [district website's safety and security webpage](#).

Above all, we want our families to know that the safety of our students and our staff is our top priority, and we will remain committed to reviewing and refining safety and security district-wide.

Sincerely,

District Safety Leadership Team