



# SCHOOL SAFETY BOOKLET

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*SAFETY IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY*

**WINTER 2025 ISSUE**



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The Safety Committee set out to focus on four key areas in the 2024-2025 school year. This edition of our School Safety Booklet focuses on progress to date in each of these areas:

1. Implementation of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) at all schools
2. Redesign of emergency drill and reunification procedures
3. Continuation of supporting the School Resource Officers (SRO)
4. Strengthening our shared culture of safety and security



# GOAL PROGRESS

CCSD59 is proud to share that of the four key focus areas, two have been completed since the beginning of the 2024-25 school year and two have been improved. We look forward to continuing our efforts to ensure safety measures are always improving.

1. Implementation of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) at all schools: **Completed**
2. Redesign of emergency drill and reunification procedures: **Completed**
3. Continuation of supporting the School Resource Officers (SRO): **Improved and Ongoing**
4. Strengthening our shared culture of safety and security: **Improved and Ongoing**

All staff and families can provide input at any time on any of these topics by reaching out to a member of our safety team below.

## DR. KATIE AHSELL

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES AND SUPPORT

## RON O'CONNOR

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF BUSINESS SERVICES/CSBO

## DANNY MALIK

DIRECTOR OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

## ALBERT TIJERINA

DIRECTOR OF FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

Safety is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for your commitment to safe learning environments for every learner.



## STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOLS AND CRISISGO

All emergency response protocols have been updated to follow The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) adopted from the [I Love You Guys Foundation](#). All staff members have been trained to use this protocol, and families have received information about the language we use in these situations. Students have practiced this language during safety drills this year, and soon, they will have a lesson to review the terms and what to expect during an emergency.

In December, staff participated in an informational session about CrisisGo, an app used by staff during emergencies to share important information beyond the alerts that go over the school speaker system. CrisisGo helps staff send and receive crucial information quickly. It also allows us to electronically account for students and staff in emergencies, when computers and classroom phones might not be available. This helps us share key information more quickly and efficiently.



## REUNIFICATION TASK FORCE

Relocating staff and students to a different location may be required if a building becomes unusable for any reason. This could result in reunification, where parents/guardians would need to pick up their student from a location other than their school.

To help the reunification process, CCSD59 has partnered with neighboring Wheeling School District, CCSD21, to begin creating a joint task force. If any CCSD59 schools need to leave the building to safely reunite with families, CCSD21 staff will be ready help. Similarly, if CCSD21 needs assistance with reunification, CCSD59 will step in to help.

We asked staff to volunteer to participate in reunification training over the upcoming summer, and the response has been great. Those who volunteered will receive training from a credentialed, trusted provider, ensuring we're ready to assist if needed.

Along with creating the task force, we are reviewing and updating relocation sites for each school as needed. This review happens every year to make sure both schools and partners are ready to work together if relocation is required.



## SRO Program Overview

The SRO Program seeks to:

- Help prevent crime
- Support student safety
- Mentor youth
- Provide educational discussions around drugs and alcohol, social media, conflict resolution, and more

The program is evaluated on an ongoing basis and reviewed annually. This includes reviewing proactive work in schools, police-related incidents, and gathering feedback from students and staff. Areas of strength and improvement are identified and discussed between SROs and administrators, much like evaluations of other district staff. Mid-year meetings with both SROs were held in December. See the next page for evaluation outcomes.

# SRO Program Evaluation Outcomes

Following the mid-year meetings, the team broke feedback into two main areas: “What’s Working” and “Continued Areas of Focus.”

## **What’s Working:**

- Increased provision of safety lessons for students at the junior highs.
- Enhanced SRO involvement in restorative practices, conflict resolution, and mediation efforts. These are leading to stronger peer to peer and peer to faculty relationships and improved school climates.
- A “Do The Right Thing” award at Holmes Junior High. SRO Thibeault gives this to students who are nominated by staff for acts of integrity.

## **Continued Areas of Focus:**

- Establishing a SRO for Friendship Junior High and Des Plaines schools in partnership with the Des Plaines Police Department.
  - The Village of Des Plaines has budgeted for an SRO so joint selection will occur for the placement of a third SRO for the 2025-2026 school year.
- Building SRO visibility and relationships across elementary schools in Elk Grove Village and Mount Prospect.
- Increasing SRO participation in community outreach initiatives, such as parent education nights and student forums, to further bridge the gap between schools and law enforcement.

## **Professional Learning:**

Director Malik, Officer Thibeault (Holmes) and Officer Palmese (Grove) will join CCSD21 SROs at the National Conference of School Resource Officers in July to further their professional development and bring back programming improvement ideas. This time together will also build professional partnerships among SROs in both districts.



## TRAININGS

Preparedness requires ongoing safety training. Without regular training, it can be difficult to remember procedures during an emergency. This year, we've had several training opportunities, including:

- **School Leader Training in Incident Command Structure:** This training taught school leaders how to use common approaches and language used by first responders in case of emergencies. It helped leaders to work as a team with fire, police, and EMT responders.
- **CrisisGo Communication Tool Training:** This training provided staff information about an online communication tool that sends emergency alerts and helps share important information internally, quickly.
- **Standard Response Protocol Training:** This training provided staff common language for the 5 types of emergency responses used in district.



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