

ADA CITY SCHOOLS

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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It is certainly understandable why school safety is at the forefront of most everyone's concerns. I would like to express to our students, parents, faculty, and staff that the Ada City School District will always take a proactive stance in regard to school safety and security. Emergency Management Procedures and Crisis Plans are monitored, evaluated, and reviewed frequently. Emergency Drills on a variety of situations are performed regularly. All law enforcement and emergency management services are consulted and encouraged to take an active part in our school safety planning, and a School Resource Officer (SRO), provided by the Ada Police Department, is a visible presence at each of our school sites.

Principals and Directors from across the district will meet regularly on the topic of school safety. At this week's meeting we discussed *Best Practices for School Security and Emergency Preparedness Planning* and identified 5 Key Strategy areas:

1. Training school administrators, teachers, and support staff (school resource officers and security officers, secretaries, custodians, bus drivers, etc.) on school violence prevention, school security, school threat assessment, and school emergency planning best practices
2. Evaluating and refining school security measures
3. Updating and exercising school emergency preparedness plans
4. Strengthening partnerships with public safety officials
5. Creating enhanced crisis communications plans and social media strategies

Students, parents, faculty and staff should always see themselves as active and significant participants in the emergency preparedness process. I would encourage each of you to stay vigilant. Listening to what our students have to say before, during, and after school and keeping a watchful eye on social media posts are as important as any security drill we will ever perform. Communicating with school officials and reporting concerns to school administration or law enforcement is a critical component to maintaining a safe learning environment.

The following phrase has become more and more relevant in recent weeks. In almost every instance, the perpetrator of a violent attack on schools made others aware of their intentions.

If You See Something or Hear Something, SAY SOMETHING!

Thank you,

Mike Anderson, Superintendent

