

Anderson School District One

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

A safe learning environment is an absolute necessity for students of all ages. Without a safe school climate, students are unable to focus on learning the skills needed to graduate and prepare for the future. Therefore, one of our top priorities is to communicate and reassure parents that the district's safety procedures and enhancements are sound and secure best practices. As most of you are aware, it is very much a challenge to balance safety within a school environment that promotes parent and community involvement and collaboration. Moreover, we strive for stability between sufficient and effective building security and providing students a healthy, nurturing, and normal school environment.

The following measures and actions reflect our district's and communities' high expectations for school safety and security:

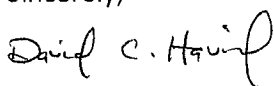
- We have limited access to our school buildings (security doors). All visitors must be "buzzed" into main hallways/office areas.
- One of our most effective safety initiatives has been providing violent intruder training for our staff. In an effort to continuously monitor and improve our safety plans, protocols, and procedures, Anderson One has adopted an enhanced strategy for lockdown procedures in case of violent intruders. Although the chances of a violent intruder entering one of our district schools is very slim, we must prepare fully for the possibility. This procedure is known as A.L.I.C.E. which is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. The A.L.I.C.E. plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way that allows staff and students to make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the "Danger zone", and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of remaining safe.
- We have eight School Resource Officers that are assigned to the elementary, middle and high schools within the district. This includes a Resource Officer at the Anderson District One and Two Career & Technology Center. These officers provide a visible presence at each of the district schools on a daily basis.
- We screen and monitor all school guests. Each school in the district has an internet-based school check-in system in place for all visitors, which provides instant sex offender checks. This allows the administration to deny entry to the building to individuals that have a sex offender criminal record.
- Each school reviews a model safe schools checklist and annually updates school safety plans. Copies of these plans are provided to the Anderson Sheriff's Department, West Pelzer Police Department, and the Williamston Police Department.

- A detailed and thorough application process and SLED check system is used to screen all volunteers.
- The district's psychologists and mental health professionals provide behavior and mental health support for students and families appropriately.
- Proactive and effective school board policies on student discipline and code of conduct, bullying, harassment, intimidation, and weapons in school are in place.
- Student discipline referrals are made to the Anderson County Alternative School when appropriate.
- The Blackboard Connect parent emergency notification system allows us to provide information to home phones/cell phones and email accounts instantly.
- State of the art security systems for all schools including over 700 cameras throughout the 15 buildings within the district, are utilized.
- Video cameras and alert radios have been placed on all school buses and are monitored on a regular basis.
- Enhancements and improvements to roads and parking areas provide for safer drop-off and dismissal of students at each of the district schools.
- A drug dog searches and sweeps each of the middle and high schools on a regular schedule.
- A full-time registered nurse is available in each school.
- Trained medical/CPR responders and new and updated AEDs are in place at every school.
- An effort has been made to ensure every student has a connection with at least one caring adult in the building.

Additionally, as a reminder, for those parents whose children ride school buses, I ask for your support in reinforcing to your child some basic safety rules for them getting on and off the school bus. The most important safety practice is that students must remember to look both ways, and to make sure traffic is stopped, before stepping into the road. Bus drivers will provide regular reminders for our bus students. The basic need to "look" before stepping into the roadway is a simple, yet lifesaving practice.

Finally, and most importantly, Anderson School District One is committed to continually working to improve school safety. Our administrators, faculty, and staff take all threats of violence, criminal misconduct and bullying seriously and urge reporting of such incidents. Furthermore, the district has established an excellent working relationship with each of our law enforcement partners which include the Anderson Sheriff's Department, the Williamston Police Department, and the West Pelzer Police Department. Your child's safety is our first priority, and with your cooperation and support, we will continue to work diligently to prevent any serious or harmful acts from occurring in our schools.

Sincerely,



David C. Havird
Superintendent