



Windham School District

School Administrative Unit 95

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

This has been an extremely difficult week to process. The recent Texas school shooting is an inconceivable tragedy. I would like to use this update to provide our parents with some additional details of our emergency and safety plans, hopefully providing some measure of reassurance. As a parent, I recognize you may have questions or be looking for clarity on what our district's safety measures include. Please know that our highest priority is always to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff.

Currently, our district has a dedicated district-level emergency management team, with building-level involvement, who meet regularly to review and analyze our current safety plans. In conjunction with the police and fire departments, our students and staff practice emergency and safety drills throughout the year, teaching them what to do should a dangerous situation on campus occur. All schools have updated security systems in place including over 100 security cameras, secure entrances to prevent unauthorized entry, double entry door systems, and layout designs to further enhance safety. Currently, two of our four schools maintain emergency blue lights to signal emergency situations. At a recent school board meeting, the school board approved the installation of the blue light systems in the remaining schools.

All administrators must complete ongoing online FEMA courses, focused on school security and safety. Our district also utilizes Homeland Security auditing, occurring every three years, to identify areas of strength and potential areas for improvement. Our next Homeland Security audit is set for this summer. In addition, we utilize table-top exercises to work through simulated emergency scenarios. Each year, all staff participate in emergency management training run by the Windham Police Department. Next week, each school principal will hold a voluntary after-school meeting with their staff to address questions regarding school safety and to gather input from those who work in the buildings every day.

We are fortunate that our town provides the district with onsite School Resource Officers that are trained by our local law enforcement agencies and managed by our town officials. All schools have mental health and guidance counselors on site who are experts on how to identify and acknowledge the social-emotional well-being of our students and staff, as it relates to characteristics of mental illness or potential risks. Over the



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last few years, our schools have increased access to mental health counselors, and next year, all schools will have a full-time mental health counselor onsite. We are incredibly fortunate and thankful to maintain a collegial and collaborative relationship with local law enforcement. Our partnership is truly outstanding.

We all have a role in sustaining a safe learning environment for our students. If you or your child see something out of the ordinary, say something. You can report suspicious activity to your teacher, principal, or local law enforcement officials. Thank you for your partnership to keep Windham School District safe. Hug your loved ones extra tight this weekend, I know I will.

Warm Regards,

Dr. Kori Alice Becht
Superintendent of Schools