

MCPS

School Safety and Security Presentation

February 27, 2018



School-based Security Staffing

- **Security assistants** are assigned to every secondary school.
- **Security team leaders** are assigned to every high school and work often with feeder schools.
- **School resource officers** are provided by the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) and work directly with an assigned high school. They also work collaboratively and in consultation with feeder schools as needed.
- The **elementary school safety and security team** is composed of a school-based team of administrators and teachers that form the **On-Site Emergency Team (OSET)**. Security team members from secondary schools within the cluster and the SRO partner with elementary school administrators on serious incidents, emergency planning, and responses as needed.

Central Office Security Staffing

- **Cluster security coordinators** advise school administrators and school-based security teams on school safety and security related initiatives such as safety drills and specific school concerns. Coordinators also work as a resource for **elementary schools** providing suggestions, guidance, and supporting the school administration with responding to serious incidents or investigations both at the school and within the school community.
- **Security patrollers/monitors** in the Electronic Detection Unit work evenings and weekends to patrol and monitor schools and other MCPS property.

School-based Security Staffing by the Numbers

Security Role	Total # of staff
Security assistants	200 High school = 123 Middle school = 77
Security team leaders	26
Cluster security coordinators	6
Electronic detection staff	7

Securing Schools with Technology

- **Access control systems (ACS)** are utilized by all elementary, middle and high schools, which include a camera at entrances. These cameras allow individuals monitoring inside the school to view the visitor before allowing access to the school.
- **Visitor management systems (VMS)** are also used by schools that require all visitors to sign-in with drivers license information which enables the system to automatically cross-reference the visitor's name with the Maryland Sex Offenders Registry.

Securing Schools with Technology

- **Over 5,500 cameras** provide interior and exterior digital surveillance for all secondary schools.
 - On average, high schools have more than 100 cameras and middle schools average 70 to 70 cameras per school.
- **Over 800 school buses** are equipped with interior cameras to monitor student activities.
- Build out communication infrastructure and purchase mobile radios for school buses, secondary school administration, and security personnel.

Facilities

- **Building control improvements**

- Vestibules, cross-corridor doors, gates, reconfigured door hardware
 - Reconfiguration of entrances to direct all visitors to the main office upon initial entry to the school

- **Classrooms**

- Securing classroom doors

- **Lighting improvements**

- Both additional and replacement

- **FY19-24 Capital Improvements Program (CIP) budget**

- \$4.9 million is included for addressing school entrances in addition to smaller projects

Providing a Safe and Secure Learning Environment

- Each MCPS school is required to provide a safe and secure learning environment. Some of the measures that the schools have adopted to promote secure facilities and increase awareness of security-related topics include:
 - **Security staff deployment**
 - **Mandatory emergency preparedness training for all staff**
 - **Emergency drills**
 - **Working with outside agencies**
 - **Curriculum instruction**
 - **Student and family support through student services**

Security staff deployment

- Each MCPS high school is assigned a security team leader and 4 to 8 security assistants depending on the facility size, student enrollment, and program needs.
- Elementary schools receive additional support from cluster security teams, central office staff through the cluster coordinators, and from the SRO as needed.

Mandatory emergency preparedness training for all staff

- School staff are trained annually on how to respond to emergencies that may occur on school grounds. School security staff receive additional training about drugs, crisis intervention, gangs, search and seizure, student mental health, and cultural proficiency.

Emergency Drills

- All MCPS schools are required to participate in at least six scenario-based emergency drills. These include lockdown, shelter in place, evacuation, reverse evacuation, severe weather, and drop-cover-and-hold. Fire drills are also mandatory.

Working with Outside Agencies

- Each MCPS high school is assigned a School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO is a uniformed police officer that works directly with school staff to ensure a safe environment by building relationships with students, assisting with emergency preparedness, and enforcement of criminal laws. MCPS has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with law enforcement agencies within the county. SROs and secondary school security teams are able to provide support for elementary schools during a crisis or serious incident.

Curriculum and Instructional Programming

- **Seven instructional units in health education (PreK-High School)**
 - Mental and Emotional Health
 - Communication, self-management, advocacy
 - Safety and Injury Prevention
 - First Aid, CPR, Emergency Response
- **Health literacy skills**
 - Analyzing influences
 - Accessing information
 - Interpersonal communication
 - Decision-making
 - Goal setting
 - Self-management
 - Advocacy

Student and Family Supports and Services

- **MCPS resources for students and families:**

- Office of Student and Family Support and Engagement website: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/student-services/
 - School counseling,
 - Psychological services,
 - Family engagement,
 - Mental health and crisis support,
 - Community resources for substance use,
 - Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports,
 - Restorative justice,
 - Truancy and dropout prevention

- **Community resources:**

- EveryMind
- Family Services, Inc.
- Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services
 - Behavioral Health and Crisis Services
 - Screening and Assessment Services for Children and Adolescents

- **Online resources:**

- National Association of School Psychologists PREPaRE Curriculum (www.nasponline.org/professional-development/prepare-training-curriculum/prepare-workshops)
 - Crisis prevention and preparedness: Comprehensive school safety planning
 - Crisis intervention and recovery: The role of school-based mental health professionals

School-to-Central Office Communication

- Office of School Support and Improvement (OSSI) receives information from schools about incidents at the school or in the community that may pose a distraction or threat to normal school operations
- OSSI broadcasts information/status internally to a preset list of central office administrators (also included are staff from operations and communications)
 - Serious Incident Management System
- Communication is sent to the community during and following incidents
 - Principals may utilize ConnectED or e-mail listserv for communications to school community
 - Systemwide communication may be determined depending on the incident

School System Communication Protocols

- Alerting the school community of an emergency is central to our emergency plan.
- If there is a credible, imminent threat to school safety, a message will be sent to families to provide information and any instructions for parent action.
- Schools may communicate with families regarding a non-credible threat that has become a distraction to instruction.
- Please do not rely on social media posts from non-MCPS accounts for information during an emergency.

School Security Review Timeline

- **Spring 2017**

- MCPS Departments of School Safety and Security and Facilities Management worked in partnership with two nationally recognized consultants in the field of school safety to conduct an in-depth review of school-based security in every MCPS high school.

- **Summer 2017**

- MCPS released the *Interim Report: School Safety and Security Focusing on High Schools* identifying seven key priority areas for recommended improvement.

- **Fall 2017/Winter 2018**

- MCPS teams continued assessments of all elementary and middle schools.

Interim Report: Seven Key Priority Areas

- Data-driven accountability for school safety and positive school culture.
- Effective allocation, utilization, and management of school security personnel and other staff.
- Technology infrastructure, including security cameras, and their use.
- Facility enhancements to restrict or limit access to more isolated areas of school buildings and grounds.
- Procedures and practices for supporting positive student behavior.
- Systemwide prevention and early intervention programs.
- Collaboration with law enforcement and other partner agencies.

Action Plans from the Review

- Review of security staffing model, job descriptions, standard operating procedures
- Continued coordination and strategic initiatives for technology enhancement, repair, and procurement (ACS, VMS, cameras)
- Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to address facility needs
 - \$4.9 million to address school entrances and other smaller projects
- Continued use of restorative practices, early intervention, and positive behavior reinforcement; student mental health programs
- Increased social media monitoring
- Systemwide communication and transparency with school communities and partner agencies