School Safety

SCHOOL SAFETY INITIATIVES

The health and safety of students and employees continue to be top priorities. The school system has been reviewing and revising safety protocols and measures for responding to emergencies. Employees are familiar with these protocols and **participate in training through the safe schools program** at the start of the each year. Each school has a safe schools team, and the district has a **safe schools taskforce** which includes various community partners and first responders. In addition, SCPPS is fortunate to have a very close working relationship and partnership with the St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office, St. Charles Parish Emergency Operations Center, and St. Charles Parish Hospital. With community support of bond issue initiatives, the school system has been able to expand its safe schools program with modifications to school campuses. The SCPPS Safe Schools Program is robust and is continuously evaluated and improved upon by first responders.

During 2022, the school system contracted with Safe Havens International, Inc. to conduct a school safety and security audit which included an on-site assessment of all district sites, an on-site strategic-level interview, and an off-site review of the district's emergency management plans and safety and security policies. Findings were incorporated by Safe Havens into a detailed report which included commendations and recommendations for consideration. This summer, the school board approved a $2.3 million safety and security enhancement plan to address these recommendations through a phased-in approach during the next three years. The following projects included in Phase I will be implemented during the 2023-2024 school year.

Additional Elementary School Resource Officers

Campus Modifications to Allow for Natural Surveillance of Surroundings by Employees

Enhanced Electronic Access to Facilities

Enhanced Remote HVAC Shutoff Access

Enhanced Allied Health Services

Expansion of Current Surveillance System to Include Analytic Software

Generator Transfer Switch Gear at Strategic Locations

Installation of Additional Panic Buttons

Protective Film Covering for Glass in Strategic Locations

Safety, Security, and Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Space Management Training

Stop the Bleed (STB) Kits

Student Training Modules Focused on Preventing Suicide, Self-Harm, and Bullying