

HUNTINGDON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Partnering for a Safe School Community

Dr. Jennifer Mitchell, Superintendent

Chief Charles T. Streightiff, Huntingdon Borough Police Department



Who Makes Up the School Safety Team?

Various Teams are assembled for various purposes and work collaboratively together to address overall safety

- District Safety Team-Central Command
- Building Level Safety Teams
- Local law enforcement
- Mental Health Team
- Threat Assessment Team



Getting on the Same Page

What do we mean when we say School Safety?

School Safety covers several interconnected areas that together help keep student and staff secure, both physically and emotionally.



PHYSICAL SAFETY



Physical Assessment of Facilities

Under School Code Law all schools must conduct assessment of their facilities. The assessment is broken down into tier 1, 2, 3 to identify the security equipment, services and programs we have at our facilities. Per section 1303-B in assessing vulnerabilities of a school an assessor must include discussion with local law enforcement.



Physical Safety Tools

- Secure buildings
- Surveillance Cameras
- Safe Facility Design
- Safety Vestibules
- Safe traffic flow
- Campus Lighting
- Parent Visitor Kiosk
- Metal Detector Wands



School Resource Officers

The Huntingdon Borough Police Department SRO Program provides SRO(s) to the Huntingdon Area School District to provide dedicated law enforcement presence and availability during the contracted hours of the school day.

The goal of the Huntingdon Borough Police Department SRO program includes providing a safe learning environment within the HASD, providing valuable resources to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth and protecting all students, so that they can reach their fullest potentials.

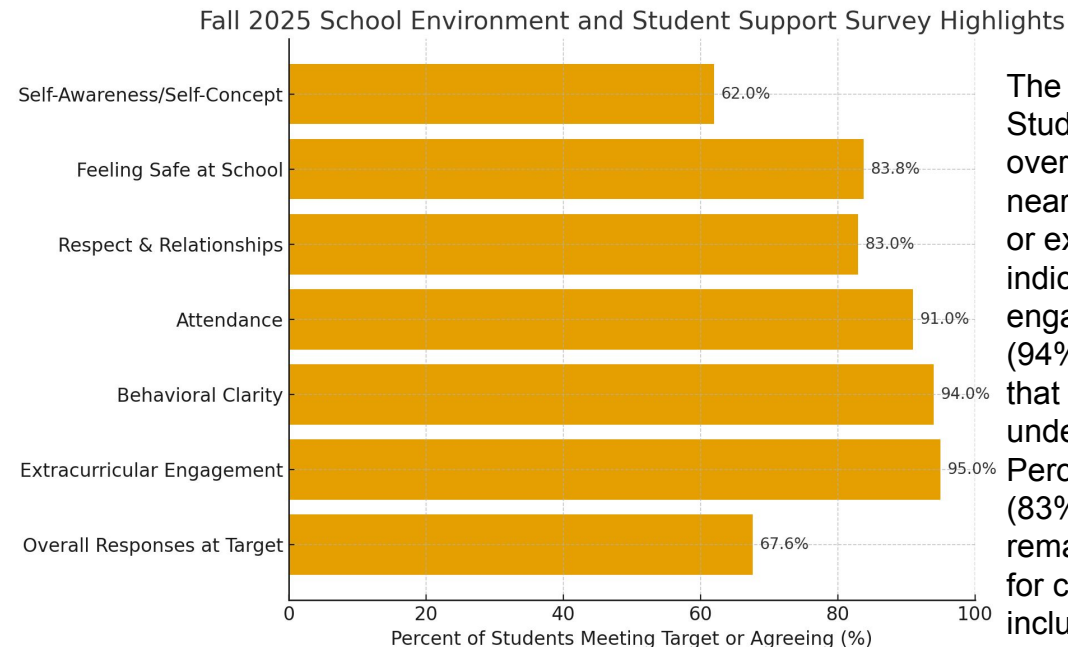


EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL SAFETY



Data for Emotional Safety

The district takes into account student input into their perceptions and beliefs about safety. This is done through annual surveys done during school hours at each building. Here is a recent example of middle school data



The Fall 2025 School Environment and Student Support Survey reflects an overall positive school climate, with nearly 68% of student responses meeting or exceeding targets. The strongest indicators include extracurricular engagement (95%), behavioral clarity (94%), and attendance (91%), suggesting that students feel connected and understand behavioral expectations. Perceptions of respect and relationships (83%) and feeling safe at school (84%) remain strong but indicate opportunities for continued focus on consistency and inclusivity. The area showing the greatest need for attention is self-awareness and self-concept (62%), highlighting the importance of ongoing efforts to build student confidence and emotional resilience.

Tiers of Support for Emotional Safety

Tier 1 Level is provided for all students as prevention

- Building positive relationships with law enforcement
- Positive School-Wide Expectations & Lessons
- School Counselor Classroom Lessons
- Anti-bullying lessons



Tiers of Support for Emotional Safety

Tier 2 Level is provided for students as prevention who have additional needs

- Contracted Social Workers
- Check-In and Check Out Intervention
- Targeted lessons with school psychologists
- Student Assistant Program (SAP)
- Community and School Based Behavioral Health (CSBBH)
- Emotional Support District Services



Tiers of Support for Emotional Safety

H.E.A.R.T.

of Pennsylvania

The Handle with Care

Endangered & At-Risk Youth Response Team
of Pennsylvania

Creating an early warning “handle with care” alert between Law Enforcement, Children and Youth Services and local school districts to provide timely and valuable information about concerned youth that otherwise would go undetected and unreported.



“Collaboratively combining the expertise and resources of multiple professionals, agencies, and communities to improve interventions for children and families.”

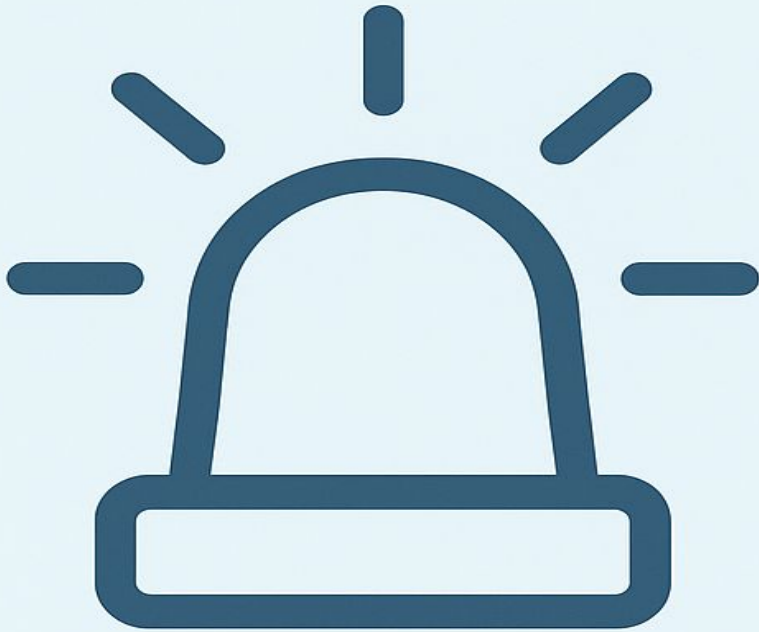
Tiers of Support for Emotional Safety

Tier 3 Level is provided for students as prevention who have additional needs

- Laurel Life Transition Classroom
- Tuscarora Partial Hospitalization Program housed at the Middle School
- Various other service providers in the region



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE



Safety Protocols

We practice safety protocols PK-12 using ALICE. All of our staff are also trained in ALICE. The phases of ALICE are the following:

- Alert: Get the word out that a threat exists.
- Lockdown: Secure a place to stay to buy time.
- Inform: Give constant, real-time information about the situation using available technology.
- Counter: As a last resort, create a distraction or use movement to disrupt the intruder.
- Evacuate: Move out of the danger zone if it is safe to do so.



Safety Protocols

Drills are done regularly with students for various emergency situations.

- Fire
- Weather
- Active Intruder
- Lockdown Operations due to community safety
- Bus evacuations
- Lock in from recess or outside concerns



Safety Protocols

Intrado Safety Shield Application is a comprehensive emergency management platform that provides tools for schools, universities, and other organizations to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from safety threats. Key features include a mobile panic button that sends data directly to 9-1-1, digitized emergency response plans and checklists, mass notification systems, and tools for managing safety drills. It is designed to provide real-time situational awareness and coordination between staff, first responders, and emergency services.



Safety Protocols

WHAT IS THE SCHOOL REUNIFICATION PROCESS?

The reunification process is the plan schools use to safely return students to their families after an emergency.



- Parents or guardians go to the designated reunification site (shared by the school or district).
- Families are asked to show photo ID to verify they are authorized to pick up their child.
- Staff will then escort each student to their parent or guardian to ensure every child leaves safely and is accounted for.



Safety Protocols-Threat Assessment

Pennsylvania's school threat assessment process is a strategy mandated by Act 18 of 2019 to identify, assess, and intervene with students who pose a threat of violence. Each school district must establish a threat assessment team to evaluate concerning behaviors, collect information, and create an individualized management plan for students at risk, which can include interventions or referrals to law enforcement.

Current Team: <https://huntsd.org/safety/>

The goals of the threat assessment team are to:

Control the situation/individual to prevent the possibility of violence

Protect and aid possible targets to the extent possible

Provide support and guidance to help individuals deal successfully with their problems

Safety Protocols-Threat Assessment

A threat is a communication of intent to harm someone that may be spoken, written, gestured, or expressed in some other form, such as via text messaging, email, or other digital means. An expression of intent to harm someone is considered a threat regardless of whether it is communicated to the intended target(s) and regardless of whether the intended target is aware of the threat. There are two types of threats:

Imminent Threat: An individual/situation appears to pose a clear and immediate threat of serious violence towards others that requires containment and action to protect an identified or identifiable target(s); and may also exhibit other concerning behavior that requires intervention.

Direct Threat: An individual/situation poses a significant risk to the health or safety of themselves and/or others that cannot be eliminated by a modification of policies, practices, or procedures, or by the provision of auxiliary aids or services. The direct threat standard applies when the Threat Assessment Team or school entity administration determines that an individual/situation poses a direct threat and that applicable disciplinary procedures are not available or sufficient to mitigate the threat.



Model Decision Making Graph:

<https://pak12threatassessment.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/PCCD-Threat-Assessment-Process-Flow.pdf>



Safety Protocols

Cyber and Digital Safety

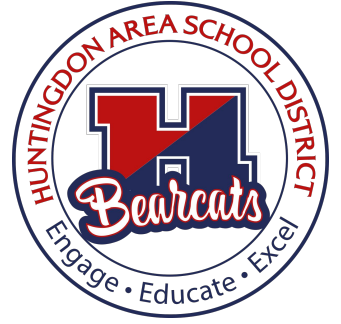
- Internet safety education and digital citizenship
- Network security and data protection
- Cyberbullying prevention
- Responsible use policies for devices
- Monitoring and reporting online threats

Gaggle System is a digital safety software used by schools to monitor student activity on school-issued accounts and platforms, such as Google Workspace and Microsoft 365. It uses artificial intelligence and human safety experts to review student content for potentially harmful issues like cyberbullying, self-harm, and violence. When a potential concern is identified, Gaggle alerts school officials so they can assess the situation and intervene. This is 24 hours a day!





Safety Protocols



School Safety: Law Enforcement Perspective on Threats

- Overview of how threats are received (Safe2Say, social media, direct reports, third-party tips)
- Immediate priority is determining credibility and urgency of the threat
- Multi-layered vetting process: interviews, digital review, evaluation of context, and corroborating information (MAGLOCLIN, PaCIC, FBI, CATO, etc)
- Collaboration with school administrators to share information and ensure consistent communication
- Use of investigative resources: threat assessment tools, forensic analysis, search warrants when applicable
- Importance of time: credible threat investigations are detailed and cannot be rushed
- Balancing student safety with minimizing unnecessary disruption to the school day
- Emphasis on accountability: threats, even “jokes,” carry real legal consequences
- Reinforcing reporting culture: encouraging students and families to report concerns early
- Transparency with the community while protecting sensitive investigative information

COMMUNITY & RELATIONSHIP SAFETY



Law Enforcement & First Responders

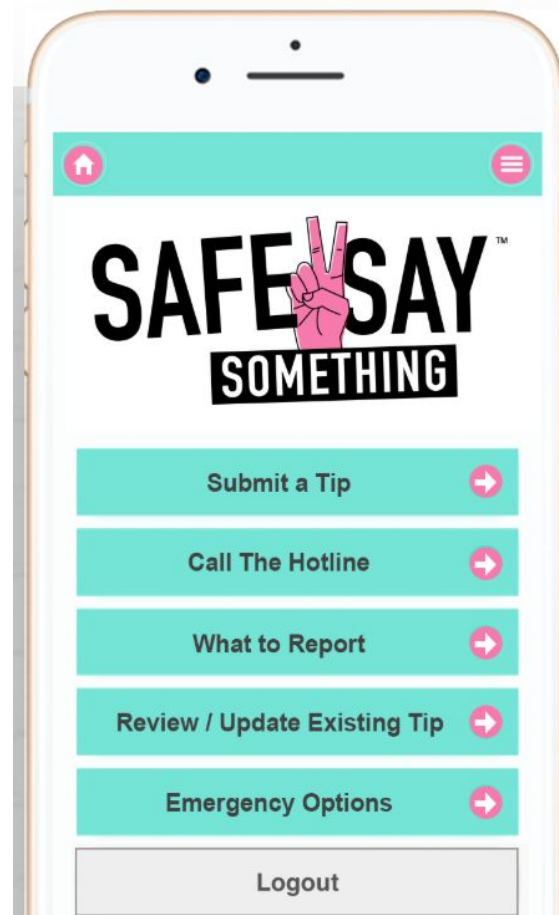
Coordination and Communication with Law Enforcement & First Responders

- Contract with the Huntingdon Borough Police Department
- State Police assigned contact coordinator
- Fire Chief Contacts established
- 911 center Emergency and Non-Emergency contacts



Anonymous Reporting for Community, Staff & Students

Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to “say something” BEFORE it is too late.



Internal



Transportation Communication System

stopfinder





School Messenger is our communication platform to send important alerts, announcements, and notifications to parents, students, and the community via text, voice calls, email, and social media. It is used for emergencies, attendance notifications, school closings, event changes, and to manage parent engagement through apps and digital forms.

General announcements will not be sent during the school day. We reserve school hours communication for emergencies only.



Social Media can be an effective tool to share information, but it is important to rely on the school district or police department official notifications to avoid rumors and misinformation.

