

East Providence School Department



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Kathryn M. Crowley
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Celeste Bowler, Asst. Supt.
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Dear Parents and Guardians of East Providence Students,

In light of recent events, we would like to provide you with information on how the East Providence School District is addressing the need for safety and security of our students, your children.

East Providence is one of only two school districts in Rhode Island with a Director of Security. Our Director of Facilities wears two hats. He is responsible for all of our buildings and the security of our buildings. He receives regular training on addressing security issues. He works with both the East Providence Police Chief and Fire Chief to assure our buildings are as safe and secure as we can make them. The Police Department Special Reaction Team trains in the schools four to five times per year.

Our schools are well monitored. Although most people would not notice them, there are over 175 cameras in our schools with 20 more scheduled to be installed. Our staff can monitor activities inside and outside our school buildings with these cameras. Not only do the cameras observe, but recordings are made which can be scanned to allow a review of any incident.

Although most of our schools were built during times when security was not such an issue, we have been working diligently to make them as secure as possible by limiting entry. Both exterior and classroom doors are locked all day; cameras; and controlled entryways have been added and more renovations are in process to further enhance building security. Visitors are buzzed into the building where their identifications are checked. Children are only released from the building to those identified on their emergency forms.

The Rhode Island Department of Education mandates each school have a combination of fifteen fire, shelter-in-place and evacuation drills each year. These exercises are monitored by our Director of Security. The school administrators are trained in National Incident Management procedures. Teachers are provided active shooter training annually.

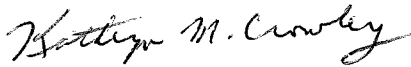
Our three secondary schools have resource officers. The primary aim of having police officers in our buildings is to foster a positive relationship between our students and the police. The officers do, however, create a police presence in our buildings which deters unwelcome intrusions. The elementary schools are provided coverage by rotating police patrols.

All of the above is covered in a 185 page Emergency Plan which is updated annually.

While arguments go on about how to make our buildings more secure, our belief is the most productive element of our schools is the environment we create. We strive to make our schools havens for students in which each child is respected and supported. We have adults who will respond should a student exhibit negative feelings or if a student reports seeing another student in danger of harming himself/herself or others. We enlist your support in showing the same awareness and welcome information from you should you observe a child who you suspect might harm himself/herself or others. In such a case, please call any one of our schools, or if the situation warrants, the East Providence Police Department.

We are striving to create an educational environment that is warm and welcoming and which produces the most learning. Within that context, we are also keenly aware of the world in which we live and the need for security within our buildings. We are doing our best to balance education and security for the welfare of your children, our students.

Sincerely,



Kathryn M. Crowley
Superintendent of Schools

KMC:slc