

Dr. Howard Hepburn, Superintendent

Safety & Security Updates

Broward County Public Schools

July 31, 2024

Purpose and Overview

EVERYONE plays a role in keeping schools safe

We have implemented best practices to empower a culture that:

- **Is laser-focused** on school safety and security
- **Engages and educates ALL stakeholders** on school safety initiatives
- **Develops and implements cutting-edge school safety tools** and systems
- **Provides interdisciplinary training** to enhance situational awareness to ensure students, families and staff have the resources they need to support school safety
- **Connects students and families** with critical mental health and social services supports

BCPS IS LEADING THE WAY AND TRANSFORMING SCHOOL SAFETY



Presentation Agenda

- 1. Safety and Security Updates**
- 2. New and Innovative Initiatives**
- 3. Key Takeaways**



SAFETY AND SECURITY UPDATES



Behavioral Threat Assessment Department

The Behavioral Threat Assessment (BTA) Department is Making a Difference!

- **Provides continuous support** to school leaders, School Resource Officers (SROs) and school-based teams
- **Ensures the timely completion** of BTAs and Student Support Management Plans (SSMP)
- **Collaborates with Broward County Schools Police and Charter schools** to support and ensure compliance with threat management policies

Provided professional development to over 4,000 staff members in the required Florida Model Trainings in 2024 YTD



Behavioral Threat Assessment Department

BTA Leads the Way

- **Receives and monitors threat reports and tips** through our **24/7/365** District Security Operations Center (DSOC)
- **Supports** the implementation of SSMPs for students exhibiting a high level of concern
- Conducts **quarterly audits** of the threat assessment process and the implementation of SSMPs to ensure fidelity

During the 2023/24 school year, over 3,875 Behavioral Threat Assessments (BTAs) were completed



Organization and Structure

Reorganized for Greater Accountability

- **Added an Assistant Director of SESIR** (School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting)
- Created a **Mental Health Department**
- Created an **Emergency Management Department**
 - Adding **Emergency Management Coordinators** to support overall readiness
- Added **School Security Compliance Coordinators** to support compliance with school safety legislation
- Rebranded Special Investigative Unit (SIU) to **Broward County Schools Police**



Collaborating with Partners

School Safety is Everyone's Responsibility

The Superintendent meets monthly with representatives from:

- Broward County Chiefs of Police Association
- Broward County City Managers Association
- Broward League of Cities
- Broward County Fire Chiefs

The Broward County Schools Police Chief meets with:

- Broward County School Resource Officers leadership
- Broward County Chiefs of Police Association

The BCPS Chief Fire Official meets with:

- Fire Officials from local municipalities
- Fire Prevention sub committee

BCPS Leadership and staff meets with:

- Council of Great City Schools (Safety and Security workgroup)
- Principals and Assistant Principals Safety and Security workgroup
- Committees and advisory groups
- Students, parents, and community leaders



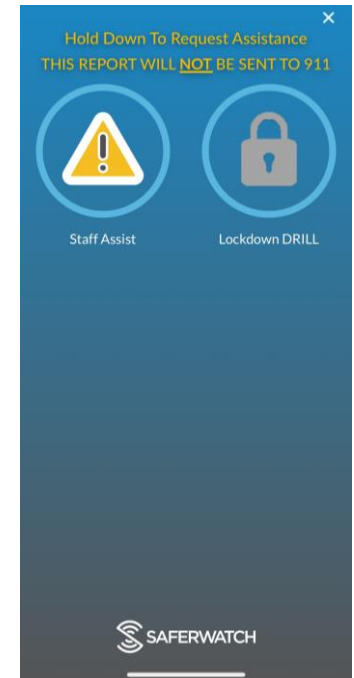
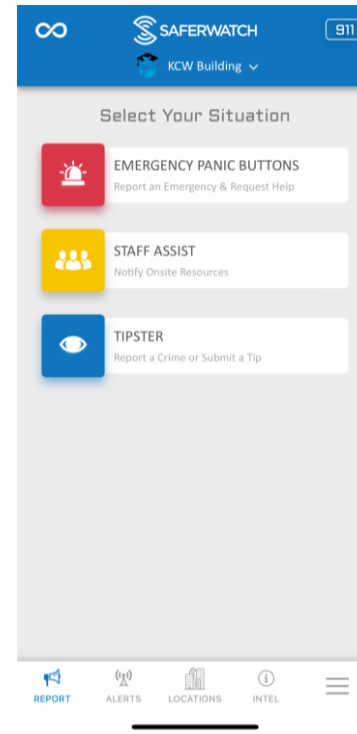
**BCPS & BSO Green
Machine PSA**



SaferWatch Panic Alerts

Access, Integration and Innovation

- All District-owned **computers** now **automatically open the SaferWatch app**
- All District-owned **cellphones** have the **SaferWatch app**
- **Incorporating a “Lockdown Drill” function** for Principals and APs
- **Implemented “Staff Assist” Function** for non-emergencies for all employees



Random Weapon Screening Program

Random Screenings are Working

- **Random Weapon Screening Program in place** since 2021/2022
- **Schools and classrooms are randomly selected**, and all students are screened for weapons
- **Frequency increased** from three to five days per week
- Last year, **10.5% more students** were screened resulting in a nearly 38% increase in the interception of **prohibited items**
- **21% decrease in weapons discovered**

Random Screening	22/23	23/24	YOY Variance
Locations Screened	279	291	4.3%
Students Screened	14,756	16,303	10.5%
Prohibited Items Removed	1,029	1,415	37.5%
Weapons	111	88	-20.7%



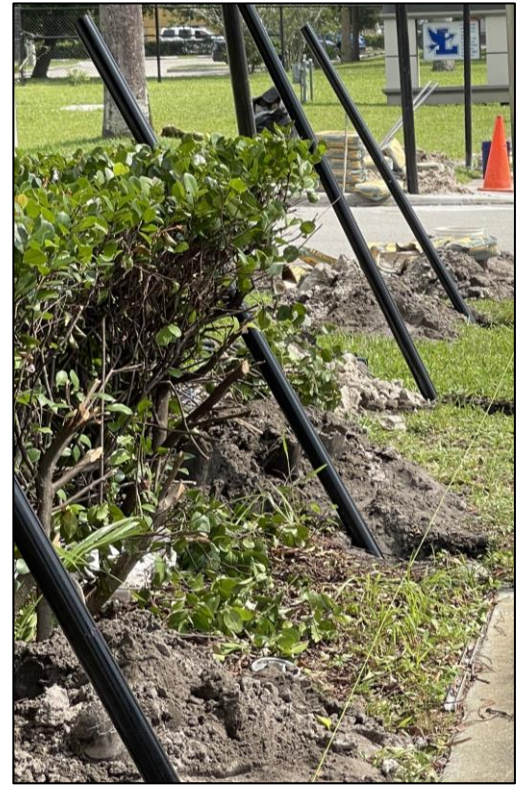
Metal Detectors used by BCPS screeners



Perimeter Fencing

Investing in the Safety of School Campuses

- **Realigning capital funding priorities** to improve perimeter fencing conditions
- **Perimeter fencing being expanded** to include all visitor parking areas at all schools
- **Allows security personnel to engage visitors** before entering the campus



Fence installation at a high school



Intercom Systems

- **A new Intercom Initiative underway:**
 - **220 schools assessed** for intercom enhancements
 - **Scope of need identified:** 87 high, 122 medium, 11 low
- **Operational enhancements are in place:**
 - **New specs** approved
 - Working with Facilities and Procurement on **new bid**
 - **Reorganized** project team
 - Deploying a **turnkey implementation model**



NEW AND INNOVATIVE INITIATIVES



PROMISE Program Status and New Initiatives

PROMISE has been eliminated!

- **Law enforcement is informed of all SESIR incidents and processes criminal violations,** not the District
- **The District supports students' underlying social and emotional challenges with:**
 - Alternative to External Suspension (AES) Programs for Grades K-12
 - Interventions Making Positive Adjustment Change (IMPAC) Program for Grades 6-12
- **At AES/IMPAC, students receive interventions, including:**
 - Mental health intake
 - Referrals to outside services and providers to address underlying personal, familial, and/or community issues resulting in misbehavior
 - Infraction-specific curriculum interventions
 - Mentoring and conflict mediation at sites
 - Onsite access to mental health providers
 - Transition planning and follow-up providing students additional support and monitoring upon return to their home school



Expulsions

Student expulsions reported starting in 2024/25

Students expelled from school and school activities:

Prior to 2024/25

- Students were assigned to a District Expulsion Abeyance Behavior Intervention Program; however, **no expulsions were reported**

Beginning 2024/25

- Students possessing a firearm or other weapon and students making threats to commit a mass shooting or bomb threat **will be reported as expelled**
- During the period of their expulsion, students are **offered continuing education services** at a District behavior intervention program
- Students involved in any serious incident are **assigned to a District behavior intervention program** and cannot attend a traditional school campus until they meet the exit criteria of the program



Metal Detectors

Investing in Weapon Detection Systems

- Metal detectors will **complement the Randomized Weapon Screening Program**
- **Metal detectors will be operational in all high schools** this upcoming school year
 - **Invested \$1.8 million** for 100 units
 - **Successfully piloted** at two high schools this summer
- The platform:
 - Allows for **maximum throughput**
 - **Is portable** and can be used at other events
 - Is **used by other Florida school districts**
 - Is **being communicated** with parents and students
- **All students and visitors** will be screened
- Thanks to referendum funds, **metal detectors will be staffed by District security**



CEIA OpenGate system



Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) Students

Leveraging Technology to Support Students



- **Four BCPS schools serving DHH population** are receiving visual notification systems
- **New systems use visual displays** in classrooms and common areas to enhance emergency and routine communications
- **SaferWatch integration**
- **Systems will be fully operational** at all four schools at the start of the 2024/2025 school year
- **BCPS will be an example to follow** for systems of this scale



Aerial Surveillance Program

Safety Innovation

- BCPS established a **new drone program** in 2024
- Developed with FAA's **Law Enforcement Assistance Program (LEAP)**
- Used to **monitor large-scale events and site assessments**



Teledyne Siras FLIR



Recent Evacuation



Radio Connectivity

Enhancing Connectivity with Technology

- Currently **assessing first responder radio frequency strength**
- BCPS is currently developing an Agreement that will allow first responders to utilize the **Motorola Smart Connect®** feature on their portable radios to connect to their primary radio systems while inside our schools and sites



The Stronger Connections Grant

Leveraging State and Federal Funding

\$3 Million in new grant funding secured through FLDOE

Three-year grant provides:

- **De-escalation training** for all staff to support students in crisis
- **Occupational training** to the District's safety and security workforce
- **Additional intervention opportunities for students with poor attendance** to connect students and families with resources



Mental Health

- **Mental Health Professionals** are available in all schools
- **Family counseling therapists** provided services to more than 3,000 students free of charge
- **Hired 40 of 60 Student Support Instructional Specialists** to support student mental health needs and provide referrals
- **Launched Help is Here campaign** to connect students needing support to resources and trusted adults at school



Help is Here Campaign

- Features PSAs, posters and school events
- Encourages students to identify trusted adults they can turn to at school



Mental Health

- **Baker Act Transportation Pilot** under development
- **Terrace Metrics Screener** administered to more than 3,600 students
- **Summer Wellness Checks** conducted for 700+ students with Suicide Risk Assessment Safety Plans and Student Support Management Plans
- **Wellness Center Initiative** expanding from two to six BCPS locations
- **Family Wellness Nights** launched at multiple schools



Additional Initiatives

- **K-9 Program** to support Random Weapon Screening Program
- **Here Comes the Bus** app offers parents awareness of where their students are
- **Keep it Closed!** Campaign
- **No Weapons on Campus** Campaign
- Safety orientation training for **new and substitute teachers**
- **Security Certifications**
- **FEMA ICS Training Requirement**



KEY TAKEAWAYS

At BCPS, the future is brighter than ever!

- ✓ Schools, teachers and students are **SAFER**
- ✓ Teachers, administrators and staff are **TRAINED** and ready to act
- ✓ The organization and structure is **MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE**
- ✓ **ACCOUNTABILITY** for safety and security extends to everyone

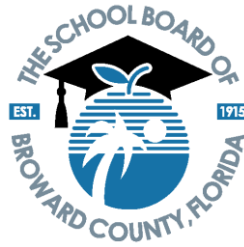
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Thank You!

Questions





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