

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
INFORMATIONAL REPORT
PRESENTATION ON THE
SAFETY & SECURITY UPDATE
OCTOBER 21, 2024

Background:

This presentation provides an update on the ongoing improvements to safety and security measures in Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). Key initiatives include refreshing camera systems to enhance surveillance, implementing new digital radios to improve communication, and reviewing and updating safety and security policies to align strategic plan goal number IV.

The Office of Safety Security (OSS) is also evaluating the potential use of weapons detection systems in 2 high schools to bolster security. Consistent with our 2022-2023 Crisis Preparedness Report, new data will be collected through focus groups and community meetings. The OSS has identified the need to increase manpower which would include adding more School Safety Liaisons (SSLs) for additional coverage and for the effective management of the weapons detection systems. Enhanced reunification training has been implemented to ensure efficient student-family reunification in the aftermath of critical incidents. We have increased the frequency and variety of emergency drills to strengthen critical incident preparedness. HCPS has strengthened communication with law enforcement partners and has introduced mass communication protocols to keep families informed during critical incidents. These initiatives reflect the district's proactive approach to ensuring the safety and well-being of all students and staff.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent of Schools recommends the Board of Education accept this informational report on the HCPS Safety & Security update.