The safety of our students and staff is our top priority. The placement of School Resource Officers, school counselors and school social workers on SUSD school campuses is only part of our approach to achieve and maintain safe, supportive schools.

School Security

Campus security professionals assigned to our campuses build relationships with the students and get to know their school communities. Those relationships are critical to their success in recognizing when something or someone is out of place and an immediate response is required.
See Something, Say Something

Students are often the first to become aware of threats, and that is why we encourage them to report anything out of the ordinary or suspicious to a trusted, on-campus adult. We call it the “see something, say something” practice.

We all have a stake in creating physically and emotionally safe schools, and SUSD’s comprehensive school safety plan includes a broad range of stakeholders:

- School administrators
- Teachers
- Mental health professionals (counselors and social workers)
- Nurses
- School Resource Officers and Security staff
- Students
- Parents
- Community members

School Resource Officers

SUSD partners with the Scottsdale and Phoenix Police departments to protect our schools. Each of our 5 high schools, 6 middle schools and 3 K-8 schools has a Student Resource Officer assigned to its campus. The SROs are on campus, in uniform, with a patrol car, to assist with student public-safety education, with access to public services for students in need, and provide immediate emergency response with a direct link to the full resources of their law enforcement agency.

Crisis K9s

SUSD and Scottsdale Police Department are proud to partner with the SUSD Foundation to have two, four-legged Crisis Response K9 “officers” at work in our schools. Their duties include providing comfort to crime victims, calming high-stress situations, and bridging gaps with community members. All current SROs are Crisis Intervention Trained (CIT) and are experienced in helping with behavioral health-related incidents.

Safety Trainings and Drills

SUSD students and staff practice for a variety of emergencies multiple times throughout the school year:

- Fire drills
- Lockdown drills
- Shelter-in-place practices
- Student-Parent reunification practices

Facilities

As threats evolve, so must our campuses. When voters approved the 2016 Bond, it provided the funding to upgrade school security and create secure, single-entry points of access during the school day through front offices. These improvements give each school control over who is allowed on campus and include:

- Front office/school lobby renovations
- New door hardware
- Additional/upgraded fencing
- Security cameras – in a crisis, they can connect with Scottsdale PD
- Automatic alert buttons
- Intercoms
- Upgraded alarm systems
**Student and Staff Identification**

All staff and students are required to wear their ID badge while on school grounds and to have it prominently displayed so there is no question as to who belongs on a school campus and who does not. It is also how permitted employees gain access to school buildings before- and after-hours.

**Lockdown**

A school lockdown is initiated to protect students and staff when there is a perceived or real threat on campus. Any staff member can call for a lockdown. Automatic alert and lock buttons along with intercoms and classroom phones/cell phones provide swift action when seconds count. Teachers lock their doors, classroom lights are turned off, and students are instructed to be quiet and move to a designated part of the room until an "all-clear" directive is provided by police or school official. During the lockdown, no one is permitted to come to the school. Parents and community members are asked to keep their distance so staff can remain focused on their mission to keep students safe. We ask that you please resist the urge to call your child. A ringing cell phone may reveal your child’s and their classmates’ and teachers’ location. Students will be provided the opportunity to call or text once the situation is resolved and the campus is secured.

The District will provide information about lockdowns to the parents of that school via text message, email and/or robocall, as well as student-parent reunification procedures, should that be required.

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**Mental & Behavioral Health**

The Scottsdale Unified School District is a leader in the state when it comes to threat assessments and interventions. Comprehensive School Threat Assessment Guidelines (CSTAG) is an evidence-based practice our schools use to conduct student threat assessments. Developed by University of Virginia forensic clinical psychologist Dr. Dewey Cornell and recognized as the national standard, CSTAG has been adopted by the Arizona Department of Education as the state’s recommended school threat assessment program.

SUSD’s Director of Support Services, Shannon Cronn, is one of Arizona’s 27 CSTAG trainers.

We recognize that emotional and physical safety in school is also related to increased student academic performance. Our focus, through a multi-pronged approach, is to provide, support, and promote and enhance safe and effective learning environments for all students.
Crisis Communications

The District's Director of Communications and Marketing and school Principals are the official sources of information during any emergency. A special notification system is used to share emergency alerts and notifications with the parents and guardians of students enrolled at that particular school. This alert system has the capability to distribute robocalls, emails and text messages.

Please make sure your contact information on file with the school (as a parent or employee) is correct and up to date. The first communication may provide only limited detail. Once additional information is verified, it will be shared, as appropriate. In the meantime, please do not call the school or go to the school. Your presence will create additional, unnecessary vulnerabilities for school and emergency personnel who are working the situation. Please wait for directions via text, email or robocall. Updates may also be posted on the school website or social media.

Student-Parent Reunification

Some emergencies may require formal Student-Parent Reunification procedures. In these instances, parents will receive directions via robocall, email and/or text message regarding where and when to pick up their student. The reunification process is divided into two separate stages at the reunification site, which is usually another SUSD site: requesting that your student be released to you and receiving your student. Parents will be asked to complete a separate Student Release Form for each student you wish to pick up, and you must present your photo identification to the reunification staff. School personnel will confirm your identity and ensure you are authorized to pick up the student you have requested.

SUSD Safety Team

The SUSD Safety Team is trained in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Incident Management System (NIMS). This means that when an emergency happens, we have a shared, baseline understanding of needs and roles, and shed our everyday titles to integrate seamlessly into a cohesive emergency management team. We are singular in our focus to ensure that student safety is an SUSD priority every day.

Visitor Restrictions

All visitors are required to enter and exit through the front office, present ID, sign in and sign out. They also must wear a visitor badge while on campus. For more information on volunteers please visit www.susd.org/Volunteer

Do you have information about a threat or school safety risk? Notify any SUSD employee or School Resource Officer immediately, or call the Silent Witness Tip Line at 480-WITNESS (480-948-6377).