

Warren County Transportation Department



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Safety and Security Update

As of 10/28/08

The State Auditors, local Law Enforcement Officials, I along with District and building Administrators recently were involved in safety and security inspection tours of three schools Eisenhower, Beaty and WAEC.

The inspections were basically a vulnerability assessment of each school. Some items reviewed were existing security measures such as video cameras and security systems, accessibility from the outside by intruders, in-house procedures for visitors, emergency response and notification procedures, documentation for inspections and drills, and training for staff and students in emergency response. Possible avenues for entry and movement by law enforcement and medical personnel in the event of an emergency were also noted and reviewed.

Items discussed were upgrading existing video security systems from fixed cameras to pan tilt zoom cameras and adding door alarms. Card access keys in various schools were needed to improve security and accountability of who, when and where people enter a building. Having a complete risk assessment done by PSP of each school to include aerial photos, building maps and videos and emergency response plans were also discussed. This is a free service provided by PSP but there is a long waiting list. This inspection was a quick assessment.

There is a Safe School grant to help fund such improvements. It's a two year cycle grant that districts can apply for. Our Grants director is aware of this grant but needs a project to apply for.

PSP also wants to coordinate, along with all local law enforcement and medical personnel, a planned emergency response drill on January 19th. There is no school that day and PSP would like to use teachers and the LE Explorer Post as actors in the drill. This still has to be discussed and approved by the Superintendent. A PSP spokesman is going to contact the Superintendent in the next couple weeks to discuss this with him.

The District's Critical Incident Plan and Comprehensive Safe School Plan Manual is currently being updated to reflect changes in personnel and procedure. The Memorandum of Cooperation between local Law Enforcement entities and the Emergency Medical Agency is before the board for approval.

I believe a pro-active approach to safety and security of our schools is important. The recent incident a couple years ago which affected several of our schools was a wakeup call that our area, although remote, can suffer a devastating incident.