SPIRIT | PRIDE | EXCELLENCE

NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS *Achieves*

Newton County Schools Safety Framework

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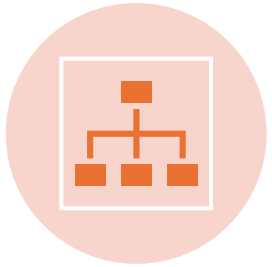
NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Layered approach to school safety

School safety measures must be comprehensive and layered

- **Prevention**
- **Mitigation**
- **Response and communication**

How we think about safety…



PILLAR I

PEOPLE, PLANS, AND PROCEDURES



PILLAR II

INVESTMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE



PILLAR III

CODE OF CONDUCT



PILLAR IV

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

SAFE IN NEWTON

Pillar I: People, Plans, and Procedures

- **People** -- People are the foundation of our safety plans and represent the district's **first line of defense** against threatening conduct. We expect our stakeholders to be vigilant in their noticings and to report all safety concerns with urgency.

Pillar I: People, Plans, and Procedures

- **Plans** -- Our safety plans are structured to ensure a **quick and clear emergency response**. They are tailored for multiple scenarios and complement our regular drills and training sessions to ensure readiness in the event of an emergency. The Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency reviews all plans.

Pillar I: People, Plans, and Procedures

- **Procedures**—Newton County Schools has established safety procedures, which are implemented at both the district and school levels and involve **protocols for intervention, reporting, and communication.**
- These procedures are outlined in school-based safety plans, which are updated annually to ensure the uniform application of safety measures across all schools and facilities.
- **Transparent communication** – includes sharing information when mistakes are made.

Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure

- **Investments**: The Newton Board of Education has allocated funds to make significant investments (estimated at approximately $24 million over the past 3 fiscal years) to support and enhance safety throughout the school system.

$24 MILLION

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Safety Infrastructure			
Personnel	**Building Design**	**Communication Systems**	**Technology**
School Resource Officers (SROs)	Building access controls Secure entrances	Vertical, internal, and external communications protocols	Surveillance camera system
District emergency response team	Video/intercom door access system	Superintendent to Board of Education communication (Norms and protocols)	SAFE crisis alert system – Teacher duress button
School-based safety teams	Enhanced exterior LED security lighting	EPIC intercom system – fire alarm integrable	
		Interoperable radio system	

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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Personnel

Newton County School Police – Elementary Schools

- Build strong connections with students
- Use of early intervention strategies
- Emergency preparedness & response



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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Personnel

Newton County Sheriff's Office – Middle & High Schools

This partnership supports:

- Campus safety
- Crime prevention
- Effective emergency response

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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Building Design



Security Vestibules

One of the main benefits of school vestibules is improved safety for students and staff. Controlling who is allowed into the building significantly reduces the risk of a security breach.

12 schools have completed security vestibules; the 11 remaining schools are included in the district's Capital Improvement Plan ($1.5M).

Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Building Design

Video/Intercom Access System

Increases safety and security by allowing staff to verify who is entering the building and why.





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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Communication Systems

School Messenger

Allows schools and the district to quickly notify families of school closures, weather emergencies, or other critical information.



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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Communication Systems

Interoperable Radio System

Interoperable radio systems help ensure that school and emergency responders are connected during an emergency, leading to faster and more effective responses.





Covington-Newton County 911 Communication Center

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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Technology





SAFE Classroom System

SAFE System (Signal Alert For Education) is an alert and notification solution that connects teachers and classrooms to first responders for quick response and communication.

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Pillar II: Investments and Infrastructure:

Technology

Weapons Detection – Sharp Stadium

- BOE approved 9/17/2024
- High school football games often attract large crowds, making it more challenging to monitor for potential threats
- Ideal setting due to the limited number of entrances
- At the direction of the BOE, we are working to assess the viability of weapons detection use in schools



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Pillar III: Code of Conduct

The Newton County Schools Code of Conduct is reviewed annually and is updated with refinements accordingly. Considerations for changes to the Code of Conduct may involve:

- **Regulatory Changes:** Shifts in educational policies or regulations, such as those related to student privacy, discipline procedures, or anti-bullying measures, may require revisions.
- **Feedback from Stakeholders:** Input from students, parents, and staff can highlight areas where the code of conduct needs improvement or clarification to better address contemporary challenges.
- **Behavioral Trends:** Changes in student behavior patterns or incidents may reveal gaps in the current code of conduct, necessitating revisions to better address and prevent problematic behaviors.

Pillar III: Code of Conduct

Talk to your kids about code of conduct violations to ensure they understand the seriousness of their actions.

- **Why It's Important:**

  Making threatening statements or violating the code of conduct can lead to serious consequences.

- **Potential Consequences:**

  Administrative actions such as school suspensions, expulsions, or disciplinary records.

- **Legal Repercussions:**

  Charges that could impact their future.

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Pillar IV: Mental Health Support

Framework

Newton County Schools provides comprehensive mental health services and support to help every student thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

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Pillar IV: Mental Health Support

Goals

- To ensure all students can access high-quality mental health support provided by licensed/certified professionals.
- To ensure all students have access to therapy before, during, and after school hours, including breaks.
- To provide training and support to students and staff to help them identify someone who might be experiencing a mental health crisis.
- To remove the stigma associated with Mental Health.

PILLAR I

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Questions

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