NEWTON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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# Safety Update

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**Chief Operations Officer**

September 9, 2025

SAFE IN NEWTON



# Layered Approach to School Safety – 4 Pillars

- People, Plans, and Procedures
- Investments and Infrastructure
- Code of Conduct
- Mental Health Supports

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# Pillar 1: People, Plans, & Procedures

## People

People are the foundation of our safety plans and represent the district's first line of defense against threatening conduct.

We expect all stakeholders—staff, students, parents, and community members—to remain vigilant and to report safety concerns with urgency.

## Plans

Our safety plans are designed to provide quick, clear, and coordinated responses in any emergency.

## Procedures

Established procedures guide consistent action in emergencies, ensuring staff and students know exactly what to do.

Procedures are practiced through regular drills, reviewed for compliance, and updated to reflect best practices and lessons learned.

# Safety Meetings

People, Plans, and Procedures

## School Safety Meetings

- Led by principal or designee
- Includes APs, SRO, nurse, and school safety team
- Review of incidents, drills, updates, and site-specific issues
- Action items documented and sent to the district

## District Safety Meetings

- Led by Safety & Security and Risk Management
- Includes representatives from all schools and key departments
- Review of districtwide data, trends, and compliance
- Coordination of training and communication standards

# Interagency Collaboration - Local

**People, Plans, and Procedures**

**Newton County Sheriff's Office**
SROs in middle & high schools, joint investigations, campus incident response, and cross-agency coordination

**City Police Departments (Porterdale, Covington, & Oxford)**
Support for school zone patrols, off-campus incidents, and special events

**Newton County EMA**
Emergency planning, drills, and multi-agency coordination

**Central EMS**
Rapid medical response, CPR/AED training, and event support

**Newton County Fire Department**
Fire safety inspections, evacuation drills, and hazard mitigation

**Covington-Newton County 911**
Dispatch support for radio and panic systems, coordinates real-time response with NCSPD and local agencies

**Newton County Juvenile Court**
Student diversion programs and alternative discipline pathways

**Newton County DFCS (Division of Family & Children Services)**
Mandated reporting and family crisis support

**Newton County Public Works**
Road closures and storm recovery during district emergencies

# Interagency Collaboration – State & Federal

People, Plans, and Procedures

**GEMA/Homeland Security**
Safety plan reviews, compliance, and emergency preparedness training

**Georgia Department of Education**
Provides policy guidance and collaborates on statewide safety initiatives (e.g., training, mental health, climate & culture support)

**U.S. Secret Service/National Threat Assessment Center NTAC**
Threat assessment best practices and behavior threat assessment training resources

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People, Plans, and Procedures

# Safety Plans

## Preventative Lockdown

- Initiated as a precautionary measure when there is a potential safety concern nearby but no immediate threat inside the school.
- Used to limit access to the building while instruction continues as normal.
- Doors are locked, exterior access is restricted, but students and staff may continue regular classroom activities.
- Movement in the building can be restricted for safety purposes.
- The goal is to maintain a secure environment while allowing learning to continue with minimal disruption.

## Emergency Lockdown

- Initiated when there is an immediate threat to students or staff inside or near the school.
- Instruction stops, and students/staff move to the most secure location within their classroom or designated safe area.
- Doors are locked, lights are turned off, and silence is maintained.
- The goal is to maximize protection until law enforcement or emergency responders resolve the threat.

People, Plans, and Procedures

| 2025 – 2026 Emergency Drill Schedule | | |
|---|---|---|
| First 10 Days of School | Fire Drill | ✓ |
| First 30 Days of School | Second Fire Drill | ✓ |
| September | Intruder Alert Drill | |
| October | Fire Drill | |
| November | Severe Weather Drill | |
| December | Fire Drill | |
| January | Fire Drill | |
| February | Severe Weather Drill | |
| March | Fire Drill | |
| April | Fire Drill | |
| May | Fire Drill | |

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# SOAR School Bus Safety Program

**People, Plans, and Procedures**




The program is designed to educate students on essential safety practices in and around the school bus.

Key safety topics covered include:

- Understanding the danger zone around the bus.
- Emergency evacuation procedures.
- Proper methods for loading and unloading a school bus.

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# Layered Approach to School Safety – 4 Pillars

People, Plans, and Procedures

**Investments and Infrastructure**

Code of Conduct

Mental Health Supports

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# Investments and Infrastructure

## Personnel

- School Resource Officers & K9
- District Emergency Response Team

## Building Design

- Secure Entrances
- Building Access Controls
- Video Intercom Door System
- Enhance LED Exterior Lighting

## Communication Systems

- Internal and External Communication Protocols
- EPIC System
- Interoperable Radio System

## Technology

- Flock Camera Systems
- Security Camera System
- Weapons Detection Systems
- SAFE Crisis Alert System

# Personnel

**Investments and Infrastructure**

| FY | $ |
|---|---|
| 2025 | $1.5M |
| 2026 | $1.8M |



## Newton County Schools – Elementary Schools and STEAM Academy

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

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# Personnel

**Investments and Infrastructure**

| FY | $ |
|---|---|
| 2025 | $1.4M |
| 2026 | $1.5M |



## Newton County Schools – Middle & High Schools

- Campus safety
- Crime prevention
- Emergency response

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# Technology





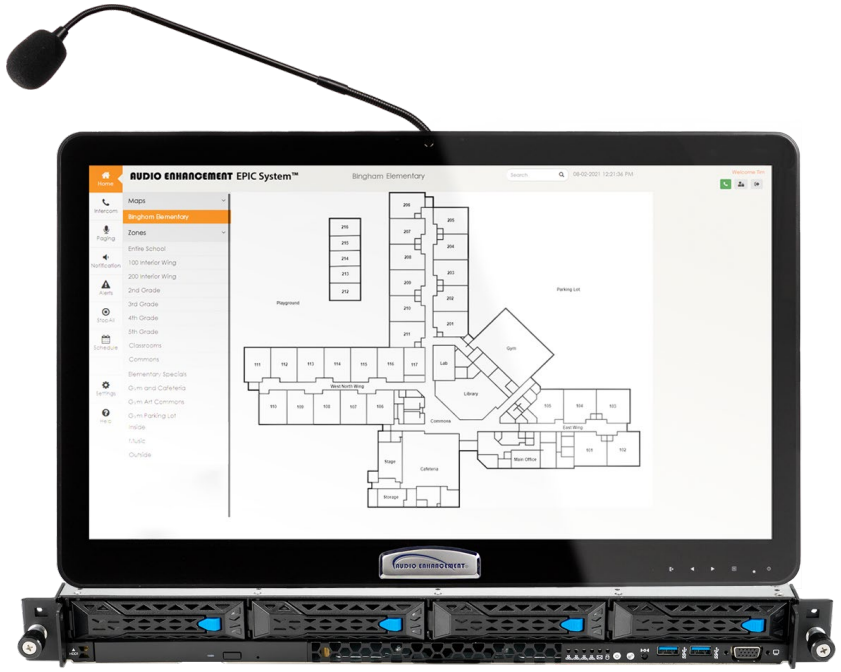

## SAFE Classroom System

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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# Communication Systems




## EPIC System

- Intercom
- Paging
- Bells
- Visual Messaging

**Investments and Infrastructure**

| FY | $ |
|---|---|
| SAFE & EPIC | |
| 2025 | $2.1M |
| 2026 | $2.0M |

# Technology



## Weapons Detection Systems

- Pilot launched in March 2025.
- BOE authorized random screenings for the 2025-26 school year.
- Screenings were implemented at the start of the school year and are currently occurring.

**Investments and Infrastructure**

| FY | $ |
|---|---|
| 2025 | $170K |
| 2026 | $246K |

# Safety Update

SAFE IN NEWTON

Questions

STRONG FOUNDATION BRIGHT FUTURE

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