

The Guardian Plan

The Whitehouse ISD Board of Trustees approved policy that will allow **board authorized personnel only** to possess a concealed firearm while on campus. At a special called meeting Monday, May 18th, the board addressed school safety and approved the Guardian Plan. WISD believes everyone has the right to a safe and caring environment. The Guardian Plan will ensure an effective and timely response to emergency situations. In Texas there are just over 1,000 school districts and more than 30% of those currently authorize employees to carry a firearm according to a 2018 survey by the Texas Association of School Boards.

Only those employees approved by the board will be authorized to participate in the Guardian Plan. Each employee selected to participate will be required to complete 80 hours of training, 56 prior to carrying and concealing an approved firearm. Each participant will be required to pass a physical and psychological exam. The identity of participants will be confidential. The Guardian Program will be supported through training with local law enforcement and experts in the field of safety and security. The program will be in place for the 2020-21 school year.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Christopher Moran commented, "We love our students and staff and their safety is most important to us. Whitehouse ISD provides an outstanding environment in which to learn. We will do whatever is necessary to protect that freedom for our community." Board President Greg Hood commented, "the Board wants to thank the administration for evaluating and considering various options relating to school safety. Providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff is of the utmost importance to our community. Our goal is to put controls in place to prevent and respond to all possible threats of harm and danger on our campuses. The Guardian Plan is another proactive step in our approach to providing a safe learning environment."