

School Safety

Safety is paramount at WCS. We want to share some information on what we do at WCS to ensure student safety on all our campuses. All Ohio schools are required to develop and submit extensive safety plans that are reviewed, revised, and submitted annually to the State. Visit the [Ohio School Safety website](#) for general information on School Safety Plan components. *Since School Safety Plans are designed to identify and address vulnerabilities and plan for threat responses, they are not considered public records.*

Safety plans are reviewed by State experts with the Ohio School Safety Center (OSSC). Once plans are graded using a rubric, the OSSC provides guidance to help schools implement best practices and improve their plans. Throughout this process our leadership team addresses any vulnerabilities that may be identified. Those reviews have led us to improvements like the renovated entry at WHS and our new Raptor visitor screening software in all our schools.

In addition to our School Safety Plans, here are a few highlights of other safety measures at WCS:

- In addition to our School Resource Officer, we also employ a Campus Monitor for our Secondary Campus (WMS/WHS). The CM works collaboratively with our School Resource Officer and school administrators to build positive relationships with students, provide prevention and safety guidance, and to monitor student activities. We have over 1000 students on our secondary campus (WMS/WHS).
- School building entrances are locked during the school day.
- We updated the entrance to WHS in 2021 to improve security. All visitors during the school day flow through the office and not directly into the hallway.
- [Raptor Visitor Screening](#) is utilized at the entry area in every school building.
- [ALICE Training](#) - Our staff have received ALICE Training®.
- [School Safety Hotline](#) - Online and phone options for reporting school safety concerns 24/7. Available on the District website's home page.
- Threat Assessment Team development and training following guidance from the [OSSC](#) in accordance with House Bill 123, the "Safety and Violence Education Students (SAVE Students) Act".
- Ongoing [Collaboration with local law enforcement](#) - Additionally, WCS will participate in an Active Aggressor Training Event in conjunction with Clinton County EMA, Wilmington Police Department, and Wilmington Fire & EMS on August 10, 2022. For more details on this exercise view the Wilmington News Journal article.
- There are continued efforts in each building to help students develop skills in resolving conflict without violence, bullying prevention, school-based counseling/therapy services, and behavior management to improve the overall climate in our buildings and provide additional student support.
- We continue to work diligently to find creative ways to update and secure schools that were built long before these tragedies began hitting the news.

(Continued on page 2)



We all have a role to play

It's important to remember that students, parents, and community members also play a critical role in keeping children safe at home and at school. Here are some tips:

- **If you see/hear something concerning, say something.** Stress with your child the importance of talking to a trusted adult or using the District's School Safety Hotline (available 24/7) when they are concerned. 911 should be used in cases of urgent safety concerns.
- If you have firearms, always secure them properly to prevent unintended harm or planned violence. Visit safekids.org for tips.
- Have conversations with your kids about healthy ways to deal with conflict.
- Reach out to your family physician, mental health provider, school teacher, or administrator if you have concerns for your child's mental well-being.
- Remember that there is help available in our schools and in our community. Visit our [Parent Resources](#) page for information on local resources.

If you have specific concerns regarding any school safety topic, you are encouraged to contact any WCS Administrator. Safety is a priority at WCS and we will continue to do all that we can to make our schools safe and inviting places for our students.

Have your student download the app today!

You can now report bullying and safety concerns from your smartphone using the *Stay Safe. Speak Up!* app. Here's how to download the app to your phone:

iPhone users:

- Visit the App store and search for "Stay Safe. Speak Up!"
- Download the app.
- Enter our District Code to connect the app to our district. District Code: **Cane**

Android users:

- Visit the Google Play store and search for "Stay Safe. Speak Up!"
- Download the app.
- Enter our District Code to connect the app to our district. District Code: **Cane**

Note: You can also call the School Safety Hotline (1-866-547-8362) or use the online form found on our district's website to share safety concerns.

