



East Allen County Schools

Office of the Superintendent

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December 17, 2012

To all Families of East Allen County Schools:

Last Friday was a horrific day in education across the world. Schools are to be a bastion offering a safe, secure, supportive, student-centered learning environment for all staff and students. When events like Friday's occur, our confidences tend to be shaken greatly. There's nothing that can be said about Friday's events that can help ease the pain felt by the students, staff and families of children and staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School except to offer our prayers for all those affected.

It's important for you to know that East Allen County Schools, on a daily basis, review, revise, practice and implement our safety procedures. I'd like to share with you some of the things we have in place so that you might have confidence in the fact that we take safety and security of our students and staff very seriously.

Below is a list of some of the things we have in place.

- EACS employs a Safety Specialist who has the responsibility to develop practices and procedures for all schools. He is certified by the State of Indiana and works with a district-wide committee to review and revise our district-wide plan which is submitted to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) each fall.
- EACS has employees who have been certified by the IDOE as School Safety Specialists.
- Each school has a safety team.
- Each school has a crisis intervention team.
- All doors in all schools are locked throughout the school day.
- Each school in the district has a buzzer system at the front door, complete with a camera and speaker system. The purpose of this is for school personnel to determine whether or not to open the door, electronically, to visitors.
- EACS has a New Haven Police Officer who is assigned full time as a School Resource Officer and a full time Allen County Reserve Officer for coverage in our county schools.
- EACS maintains an excellent relationship with both the Allen County Sheriff's Department and the New Haven Police Department.
- Security cameras are in place in all of our buildings and most of our school buses.
- Teachers supervise hallways during passing period.
- Schools practice safety drills throughout the school year as required by law.

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This is representative of just some of our efforts. But, one thing we do know, through all of the research and historical evidence gathered over the years, is that it takes ALL of us to maintain a safe environment. School Safety is EVERYONE'S job!

Please talk to your child(ren) about the necessity to discuss concerns with adults in their school(s). There's an old saying that we need "mental detectors" more than metal detectors for security. Paying attention to the little things is vitally important. And, if something causes concern, telling someone about the situation is critical to maintaining a safe environment. Sometimes we don't want to mention something because we may think it's silly or we may think we're going to hurt someone's feelings. That goes for both students and staff. But, what we tell those who are worried about "telling" on someone or about something is that we'd rather have a conversation with someone out of concern about something bad happening than have a conversation with someone else after something bad has happened. Bottom line, communicate concerns immediately! The Department of Education Safety Specialist says, "See something? SAY SOMETHING!"

We will continue to be diligent in our safety efforts. Please contact your child's principal if there are specific questions you have relative to your child(ren)'s school. Thank you for your efforts!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karyle M. Green". The signature is fluid and matches the printed name below it.

Karyle M. Green
Superintendent

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