

Fort Worth ISD

Safety & Security Department

Keeping Children Safe

Students need a safe school climate to ensure they have the best possible opportunity for academic success. In order to achieve this, it is important that all involved understand the terminology and safety and security practices Fort Worth ISD has implemented.

Research indicates that students are more likely to feel safe at school when they are aware of school safety measures. Visible security such as uniformed officers, security cameras and locked doors and gates are beneficial safety precautions. Institutional security such as having clearly defined rules, safety drills and emergency procedures also play a role in student safety. The support of parents and staff is an important action in building an overall safe school environment.

Lock-down and Secure Defined

FWISD and local police departments use the terms **Lock-down** and **Secure** to define safety measures that are taken during fast moving events in the school or in the vicinity.

A **Lock-down** ensures maximum safety for students and staff. means either a serious threat outside is actually on the school property and may include weapons, or a threat is inside the school and needs to be isolated from the students. In a **Lock-down** teachers clear the halls, lock classroom doors, cover windows, turn off lights and students are asked to keep quiet. The school resource officers and other police officers search the school to address the threat.

Secure utilizes a door management system to lock all of the school doors to keep possibly dangerous events near the school from moving inside while classes are still in session. During this time all outside activity is suspended. The **Lock-out** protects the learning environment, keeps students learning, and school operations fairly normal with minor alterations.

Parental Guide for “Lock” Situations

- Parents and the public cannot enter a school during a Lock-out or Lock-down. Please be patient with the process.
- If the threat is real, one could be entering a danger zone and/or cause delays in ending the security procedure.
- Legitimate information disseminated via ParentLink will alert that a situation is in progress.
- Social media posts and unverified information should not be taken as fact and spread.
- Conversation with your student about staying off social media during these events is essential in keeping the situation in the hands of the authorities.

Fort Worth ISD’s Commitment to Keeping Children Safe

- Utilization of approximately 150 peace officers, including approximately 50 School Resource Officers (SROs) serving District campuses. They are specially trained to work in the school environment to ensure the safety of students, staff and visitors.
- Interaction with local law enforcement agencies
- Employment of 14 area advisors who serve as liaison team members with the SROs.
- Assignment of campus monitors at most District campuses, who provide uniformed security
- Leadership of emergency management coordinator who directs preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation planning and activities, and ensures compliance with state safety drills.
- Installation of over 4,400 digital cameras inside and outside of our schools
- Utilization of access controlled entrance doors requiring a District issued ID card for access. Only after visitors are properly checked in are they allowed entry into the schools.
- Incorporation of visitor management system to make sure registered sex offenders and unwanted entrants don’t have unnecessary access to our schools
- Assignment of two-way radios for key personnel on campus, and a second radio system for communication between the campuses and the District’s safety and security office
- Availability of two-way intercom capability in many classrooms