



EMS ISD

Safety Comes First

EMS ISD is committed to prioritizing the safety and security of every student, along with every staff member and visitor to our campuses. Below are highlights of the multi-layered safety and security measures that have been implemented to further protect those in our schools and facilities. EMS ISD is committed to keeping Every Member Safe!

Multi-layered Lines of Defense

Across the district, we have 32 campuses and facilities to protect each day, and we do so with a comprehensive safety plan that includes operational protocols for a variety of emergency situations, as well as physical deterrents that serve as multi-layered lines of defense. Technology, logistical systems, communications, facility operations, maintenance and construction, staff and student response protocols, training and drills, and of course, law enforcement, are all included in our district and campus safety plans.

EMS ISD Police Department

The implementation of a district police department this fall is another important move to further increase safety measures in our district. Chief Charlie Ramirez has hired highly-skilled officers for EMS ISD that are being trained specifically to work in schools and provide a school-specific crisis response. The EMS ISD Police will continue to collaborate with law enforcement in the cities of Fort Worth, Saginaw, and Blue Mound, as well as Tarrant County, to provide support and access to additional resources when needed. Officers will be assigned to middle and high schools, and additional officers will be assigned to patrol in and around every elementary campus each school day. Our district Security Specialists will also continue to serve and support all campuses.

Standard Response Protocols

EMS ISD has adopted the Standard Response Protocol as the District's emergency response procedures for all EMS ISD schools and facilities. Adopting this protocol ensures that emergency personnel and the district are using the same language in emergency situations. These protocols include Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate, Shelter, and Hold. Campuses and facilities practice these drills regularly to ensure that students and staff are prepared in an emergency.

Specialized Training for All Staff

All EMS ISD police officers will be trained in protocols specific for first responders to active shooter situations. The Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (ALERRT) is considered the national standard in active shooter response training by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Chief Ramirez is a certified ALERRT/CRASE trainer and he, along with the Saginaw Police Department and Tarrant County College Law Enforcement Academy, conducted the citizen version of this training called CRASE - Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events. All EMS ISD teachers and school staff participated in this training in August 2022 prior to the start of school.

Physical Barriers

Physical barriers are a key deterrent to any active threat. These include additional security cameras and monitors, door locks, controlled access points, and exterior perimeter fencing. In summer 2022, every camera in the district was checked for functionality and 600 additional cameras were added to our security monitoring system. Policies and procedures were also updated to require classroom doors to be locked when students are present for instruction during the regular school day. This is to provide expediency in moving to a lockdown situation should the need arise. Exterior doors will be monitored throughout the day and all visitors will be required to enter through the front office, must be "buzzed in" before gaining access, and must present a valid identification card to be on campus.

Threat Assessment

Mental health continues to be a focus and our district counseling team works closely with campus and district leaders to build support plans for individuals and to monitor for behaviors that have the potential to escalate. The best defense is to stop a threat before it happens, and our mental health and threat assessment systems are critical components of our overall safety plan.

Questions?

Visit the "Let's Talk" link on our website or email Chief Ramirez at qramirez@ems-isd.net

Safety is the responsibility of everyone, working together and looking out for one another. Know that we will continually look at ways we can support a safe and secure environment for all members of the EMS ISD community.