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# SAFETY MEASURES

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## **KEEPING SCHOOLS SAFE**

**Prince George's County Public Schools** is committed to maintaining a safe and orderly learning environment for students and staff. The school system employs 66 investigator/counselors, three field operations supervisors, and over 130 security assistants. Each high school has two investigator/counselors, one school resource deputy, and two or more security assistants. Investigators are assigned to special centers, and middle and elementary schools by regions. At least one security assistant is assigned to each middle school.

**Investigator/Counselors** are commissioned and certified police officers with powers of arrest on Board of Education properties. They are responsible for investigating and prosecuting any student involved in criminal acts occurring on school grounds. Investigator/Counselors enforce the Code of Student Conduct, assist administrators with legal and criminal matters, and provide a security presence essential to maintaining an orderly environment. Investigator/Counselors play an integral role in the school environment. The positive interaction with students and proactive measures help prevent crimes on school property.

Security assistants support school administrators in monitoring various locations on school grounds. They also monitor surveillance cameras and provide an additional adult security presence. Security assistants do not have arrest powers.

## **ADDITIONAL SECURITY MEASURES**

**Each high school and most middle schools** have multiple security cameras located throughout the interior and exterior of the building. All middle schools will be equipped with cameras by the end of this calendar year (2008). The cameras are monitored and serve to deter inappropriate behavior and assist in the investigation of incidents. Prince George's County Public Schools' surveillance camera system has been used as a model for other school systems.

**All Prince George's County public schools** have emergency plans which address critical incidents on and off campus. **Emergency planning training and workshops** have been provided to school principals and staff in cooperation with public safety and other county agencies. School system representatives participate in the county's Homeland Security Committee, working cooperatively with county, state, local, and federal agencies in emergency response planning.

**All schools** are also equipped with **two-way radios**. High schools have direct two-way communication capability with the county or municipal police departments. Resident investigators have a verizon cellular telephone and field investigators are equipped with Blackberries for immediate response.

**Prince George's County public schools** are safer because of excellent **partnerships with a variety of law enforcement and public safety agencies**. The Prince George's County Board of Education has entered into a partnership with the Prince George's County Sheriff's Department to place School Resource Deputies in all of the high schools. These specially selected and trained deputies are assigned on a full-time basis. They provide uniformed presence, mentor the students, and are key in building trust with our youth. The deputies work in conjunction with the Department of Security Services personnel, students, staff, and visitors in the continuing commitment to provide a safe and orderly learning environment. Sheriff's Departments conduct several programs in schools.

**Community services officers and community-oriented officers** work closely with the schools and the School Security Department in enhancing relationships between law enforcement, students, and administrators. The Student Crime Solvers Program is a cooperative effort with Crime Solvers, Prince George's County Sheriff's Department, and the school system's School Security Department.

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