



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2018

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10 WAYS THE NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT KEEPS STUDENTS SAFE AT SCHOOL

School safety and security is critically important to the National School District. Not only are Comprehensive School Safety Plans in place at each school site, but training takes place continually to ensure staff and students know exactly what to do in case of an emergency.

These school safety plans are integral to the district's mission to provide our community's children with a safe and nurturing environment in which to learn. The plans are developed in partnership with district site councils and routinely reviewed to prevent tragedy from striking National City. In fact, the district's Governing Board approved updates to the plans at the Feb. 28 school board meeting.

The district works hand-in-hand throughout the year with local law enforcement to ensure campuses are safe places for everyone, every day. Officer John McGough and Officer Richard Calixto, two school resource officers assigned to the district by the National City Police Department, are familiar faces at each of the district's 10 campuses and dedicated to student and staff safety.

With a focus on safety and security training, the district has worked diligently in recent years to put a number of safety measures into place throughout our facilities. Here are 10 Ways the National School District Keeps Students Safe At School:

1. All campuses have been closed and secure since 2016. Guests can only enter via the front office and must sign in and obtain a visitors pass to be allowed access to classrooms or other areas of the school.
2. In addition, campuses have used the Ident-A-Kid visitor management system at every site since 2015 to allow the office staff to better identify frequent guests, such as volunteers, as well as unwanted visitors.
3. California requires all public schools to have a comprehensive school safety plan. Our school sites update theirs in collaboration with National City police, and our Governing Board reviews them by March 1 each year. A summary is available to the public, while a confidential copy is held at each campus for training and reference purposes.
4. Students and staff practice what to do in case of an emergency so that they can remain safe and first responders will be able to quickly reach the scene of a critical incident. Schools conduct monthly drills to perform lockdowns, fire evacuations and earthquake response.
5. This spring, these drills will be expanded to include critical incident procedures to follow in response to any unexpected occurrence that may cause people to be afraid.
6. District administrators and staff have received training in how to respond to active- shooter situations. The most recent training took place on Jan. 8 of this year.
7. An active-shooter simulation is scheduled for this summer, and will include National City police and firefighters, along with district administrators and teachers.

NATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Creating Successful Learners... Now

8. The district has a unique and longstanding relationship with the National City Police Department, which has assigned two school resource officers who have a presence at all our schools and the Sweetwater Union High School District campuses. These law-enforcement professionals make regular appearances on campus and are on-call for immediate assistance at any school site.
9. The district uses School Messenger, which has the capability to deliver emergency information by voice, text and email messaging, as well as Twitter to communicate information quickly and efficiently to those signed up for the services.
10. The district recognizes that in addition to physical safety, the mental-health challenges faced by students are also important and works to address social and emotional needs. The district has counselor and/or psychologist support available at all school sites, and has recently hired a new district social worker. The district has implemented the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS) system that uses positive approaches to encourage good behavior, and strongly believes setting clear expectations and creating an inclusive, respectful school culture leads to student success.

National School District serves about 5,800 students in kindergarten through sixth grade at 10 schools, and operates a preschool program that is free to National City residents.