

# Chattooga County Schools' Safety Basics

Chattooga County Schools believes that school safety is a shared responsibility. We are grateful for the collaborative efforts of students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff members, and community members. Your active involvement is crucial in ensuring the safety of our schools, and we appreciate your continued support.

Chattooga County Schools is committed to ensuring transparent, timely, and effective communication in a crisis. To maintain accuracy, consistency, and transparency throughout the system, Chattooga County School's policy is that all official communication during a crisis/weather incident will come directly from the district. The district will use multiple media communication outlets (REMIND, social media, local media, etc.) to update parents, staff, and community members, reaffirming our commitment to keeping everyone informed while safeguarding the well-being of our students and staff.

All crisis communications will follow district-approved messaging protocols, and updates will be shared via media outlets and the REMIND communication platform as new information becomes available. We ask for your partnership in helping us maintain a safe environment for all by adhering to district policies, including prohibiting weapons, drugs, vapes, and other prohibited items on school property by state law and school board policy. Together, we will continue to prioritize the safety and security of Chattooga County Schools.

Each school and school system must have emergency plans to protect students, staff, and visitors. At Chattooga County Schools, we take a proactive approach to emergency preparedness. We annually develop safety plans with the Department of School Safety, Chattooga County Emergency Management and the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency (GEMA) ensure our schools are ready for any situation. This includes regular drills, specialized training, and frequent safety updates.

The School Safety Plans cover but are not limited to:

Regular Safety Drills –  
Lockdown procedures  
Intruder drill  
Fire evacuation drill  
Severe weather drill  
Transportation/School bus drill

Staff training -  
CPR/AED and Stop the Bleed drill  
Bomb threat management training  
Suspicious activity reporting training  
Annual review and update of emergency plans

## **Campus Safety -**

**Access control door entry system at all schools**

**Advanced surveillance camera system (interior and exterior) on all campuses**

**Advanced radio communication system**

**Mental health and suicide prevention resources**

**Handheld metal detection wands**

We monitor and manage visitors to all buildings daily and routinely check for locked exterior and interior doors. Our School Resource Officers are invaluable to our team and assist with security checks and management daily. Our safety plans also include procedures for complete campus evacuations and parent reunification. For the safety of students and staff, the exact locations of reunification sites will be shared with parents once students are safely transported.

Transportation safety teams are also part of our safety plans. Each school has representatives who respond to bus accidents, help secure the scene and communicate with parents.

The primary goal of school safety planning is to protect every student, staff member, parent, and visitor. While your school principal can discuss general safety plans with you, specific details of these plans will not be publicly disclosed for security reasons. Each school annually reviews and updates its safety plan to maintain the highest safety and security standards.

Thank you for your trust and support as we work together to keep our school environment safe and nurturing.

Parents, how can you help?

Please talk to your child(-ren) about not sharing or reposting inappropriate material on social media.

Be vigilant in sharing information related to our schools' safety.

Encourage your kids to say something if they see something.

Do not share unverified information.