



# Elgin Independent School District

- Elgin ISD Changes Lives -

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February 19, 2018

Dear Elgin ISD Families,

As you know, last week our nation suffered yet another horrific school shooting, leaving us with deep sadness for those that lost their life and for those that lost loved ones. It also leaves us with a pronounced concern for the safety and security of our own school community.

Very reasonably, the question about our own emergency operations and security procedures in Elgin ISD have been raised, and I want to assure you that school safety and the well-being of our students and staff remains our highest priority. I wish to share with you some of the measures we have put into place to address a range of emergency events.

First, while it is our desire to always create a welcoming, open, and warm environment for our students, staff, and community, we also recognize that we must exercise caution so as not to compromise the safety and security of our schools. In fact, over the last several years, our District has made great strides in improving safety and security at all of our campuses. This includes the addition of secured vestibules/lobbies to limit access to the main portion of the school building. We have also installed security cameras, both inside and outside of our school buildings as well as access-control systems on exterior doors leading in to our schools. Additionally, every Elgin ISD campus is equipped with the Raptor Identification System, which provides our staff the ability to scan a driver's license or other form of ID through various sex-offender databases. These are intentional and deliberate ways that we are monitoring and managing who is accessing and entering our buildings.

Second, Elgin ISD, in conjunction with the Elgin Police Department, have law enforcement School Resource Officers assigned to both our middle and high schools. They have been instrumental in providing additional oversight and monitoring of our campus security and safety needs, including the handling of our drug dog sweeps, which has been highly effective.

Third, our staff participates in an annual review and training of our emergency procedures and drills, and we regularly practice those drills with our students throughout the year. Importantly, our safety and security procedures are subject to state audits every three years. Elgin ISD has been compliant in all of its audit submissions.

Finally, in spite of the systems we have in place, the most powerful tool we have to improve the safety and security of our schools is to maintain a *sense of community* – that One Town, One Team, One Family mentality - within our schools and the neighborhoods they serve. Our need to

be vigilant, watchful, and report unsafe situations is our best defense against any potential threat against our schools. It is time for us to increase the level of conversation with our children and with other members of our community. ***Safety is a serious matter; and school safety is a job for the entire community.***

Please know that Elgin ISD remains committed to providing a safe and secure environment for all of our students and staff. We understand and know that a student who does not feel safe at school cannot learn. I encourage you to maintain an open line of communication with your child's school and refer any concerns you have to the campus administration. Also know that we will continue to review our district emergency operation procedures and use the tools and resources we have to improve school safety.

For now, our thoughts and deepest sympathies remain with the families and the community of Parkland, Florida that were impacted by last week's unthinkable tragedy. Please keep them in your prayers.

With gratitude,

Dr. Jodi Duron  
Elgin ISD Superintendent