



George West Independent School District

Roland Quesada, Ed.D.
Superintendent

July 30, 2023

GWISD Parents, Guardians and Students:

The George West Independent School District administration and Safety Committee continue to prioritize safety and security to ensure that our students and staff enjoy a successful and safe school year in 2023-2024. Our safety measures are driven by a comprehensive safety and security assessment of all our district facilities and procedures in the District. This review allowed us to see what we are doing well with security and what areas need improvement. We know for sure that student and staff safety will be a team effort. It will take ALL of us to have a safe and successful school year. Here is a list of things that will continue to be implemented in 2023-2024, although there may be ongoing changes as the year progresses:

- Students in Grades 7 through 12 will be required to use a **clear backpack**. Athletic gym bags, band cases, cheer bags will be stored in lockers and will not be allowed as students travel class to class. Purses must be no bigger than 6" x 9" x 5". All bags will be subject to search. For further information on the **Clear Backpack Policy**, please see FAQ on our district website. www.gwisd.us.
- School safety procedures will be **PRIORITY ONE** in the school district. This includes Emergency Procedures and Alerts practiced and implemented by all students and staff. Procedures such as lockdowns, evacuations, reunifications, shelter in place will continue to be routinely practiced by all and monitored by administration. Staff will be held accountable for locked and secured doors and entryways. **Student and staff safety is everyone's job!**
- We will increase the presence of armed security with three (3) **School Resource Officers** on our campuses. This will be accomplished through our partnership with the City of George West Police Department.
- Continued presence of **School Guardians** at all district campuses and facilities.
- **School access control** will continue to be reviewed and fortified with increased electronic entry ways, visitor management system, locked doors, and security badges.
- School and district **security cameras** will be increased throughout the district.
- **Two-way radio** systems will be installed at all district campuses and school buses.
- **Staff training** for ALL staff on active shooter response, use of emergency applications, and campus safety and security procedures will be held in August, 2023. Student training will follow upon their return.
- Campus and District **Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams** will continue to receive annual training and will meet at scheduled times to ensure that all students are actively engaged in school activities. Teams will also ensure that students requiring emotional wellness support receive it in a timely manner.



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- The George West ISD **Law Enforcement Advisory Team** comprised of representatives from the George West Police Department, Live Oak Sheriff's Department, Department of Public Safety and Texas Parks and Wildlife Game Wardens, will continue to meet with George West ISD staff to collaborate on community policing and emergency procedures.
- Students will have the services of a **Licensed Professional Counselor**, who will help us meet the mental health and wellness needs of all our students. She will work closely with Behavioral Threat Assessment Teams.

Once again, school safety and security is EVERYONE'S JOB! We want everyone to focus on the education of our great kids in George West ISD. Thank you to the GWISD Board of Trustees for their support.

Respectfully,

Roland Quesada, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools
George West ISD