

SCHOOL SAFETY MESSAGE

This message is to reassure you of the measures we have undertaken to keep our schools as safe as possible. We have improved our visitor procedures, added video surveillance, created emergency plans, partnered with Sheriff Major Hulon to continue providing a school resource officer at every school even after state and federal funding was eliminated, established a parent emergency call system and added other safety measures.

We have added school lock down drills to our current fire, tornado and earthquake drills. We have trained staff specifically for shooting incidents. We cooperate with law enforcement annually to improve our procedures and reevaluate our current safety measures in all aspects.

Latta Elementary School has the most superior safety features to protect our children and staff. We have also renovated the Latta High School entrance to improve safety. And we also have preliminary safety plans under design for the entrance at the Latta Middle School.

There are three things that you can do to help us. One is to be patient with staff as we increase identification screening when you visit our schools. We do this for safety and apologize for any inconvenience it may cause you. The second way you can help us is to contact our local state legislators and let them know that you support new legislation that would fund by the state a school resource officer in every school.

The third and most important way you can help us is by being personally involved. If you detect a safety area we need to consider, then suggest it to your principal. And talk with your child and let them know that if they hear of a possible threat in or about school, they should let a staff member know immediately and let you know at home so you can also contact the principal. Alerting us ahead of time is the best way to deter any threat.

If needed, let your child know what we are doing to protect them. Tell them their teachers will always help keep them safe in time of an emergency. And while we cannot predict if or when an event might happen, we can promise you that we will continue to evaluate and improve our measures to keep our schools as safe as we can.