

## Maintaining a Positive School Climate

### *A Sample of Prevention Programs*

**Elementary Classroom Meetings** - are held routinely to build a classroom community by teaching positive approaches to problem solving and conflict resolution.

**LifeSkills Program\*** - is a research-based program with demonstrated efficacy in decreasing the initiation of and early use of drugs and alcohol.

**Penn Resiliency Program for Children and Adolescents** - is designed to teach social problem-solving skills such as impulse control, perspective-taking, goal setting and decision making.

**Olweus Bullying Prevention Program\*** - is designed to reduce and prevent bullying at school in grades K-8.

**Student Assistance Program (SAP)** - is a systematic process to assist school personnel in identifying issues, including problems with alcohol and drugs, which pose a barrier to student learning and success in school. Working with community agencies, SAP teams identify school supports and assist families in accessing community services.

**Risk Assessments** - are conducted for students whose behavior appears to be a threat to the student or to others. Conducted by certified mental health professionals, the assessments serve to determine whether or not the behaviors are genuinely threatening.

**Suspicious Activity Notification** - is a response to any report of suspicious persons or activities near a bus stop or school. The protocol details communication with police, parents, students and school staff.

**Peer Mediation** - a student group trained to mediate peer conflicts, the goal of peer mediation is to promote conflict resolution, anger management and tolerance.

**Digital Citizenship** - lessons are delivered to students on how to use technology appropriately.

*\* Recognized by the United States Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.*

## Contacts

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## Spotlight on Safety

*Policies, practices and procedures for keeping children safe and secure in T/E Schools*



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## Organization

**District Safety Plan** - addresses *prevention*, including fostering of a healthy school climate, *intervention*, the response to incidents that compromise school safety and security, and *postvention*, procedures to implement after certain kinds of incidents.

**Building Safety Committees** - review and revise building evacuation and drill procedures, security practices and other building safety issues.

**School Climate Committees** - develop annual elementary building action plans to promote positive school climate through character education and bullying and substance abuse prevention programs.

**School Board Policies** - All policies and regulations relating to student safety and wellness have been reviewed and revised. To access the full text of the policies and regulations, log on to [www.tesd.net](http://www.tesd.net).

- #5401 - Student Discipline
- #5405 - Student Substance Abuse
- #5412 - Searches
- #5436 - Reporting Suspected Child Abuse
- #6141 - Non-Discrimination
- #8040 - Emergency Preparedness
- #8060 - Security of District Facilities
- #8070 - Surveillance Monitoring in Schools and on School Buses

## Building Security

**Buzz-In Entry Systems** allow school staff to screen visitors prior to granting access to the school. After the start of the school day, visitors must use an intercom system to enter the building. Visitors not recognized by school staff will be asked to show photo identification, sign in and wear a visitor badge while in the school.

**School Lobby Staff** greet visitors to identify the reason for their visit and direct them to the appropriate areas.

**ID Badges** are worn by all school personnel.

**Staff and Volunteer Clearances** are required for those responsible for students.

**Crisis Response Information** is available in all school rooms in the form of a flip chart.

**Canine Searches** are conducted periodically in the secondary schools to deter student possession of illicit drugs at school.

**Surveillance Cameras** at all schools provide additional coverage of main building entrances. Cameras at the middle schools and high school provide school-wide coverage of the hallways and cafeteria. Cameras are also located in designated outside areas of Conestoga. Buses may be equipped with video and audio recording devices for safety purposes.

**Building and Parking Lot Security** - security personnel help maintain order during the school day and at evening events. Parking lots at Conestoga are monitored by security personnel, cameras and emergency call system equipment. Field signage is posted in designated areas to restrict unauthorized access/entrance onto school property.

**District Safety Committee** meets regularly to discuss school issues, develop action plans and coordinate with Building Safety Committees.

## Crisis Response

**Fire/Evacuation Drills** are conducted, as required by law, each month in all schools. Additional evacuation drills are conducted to train students to respond in the event of more unusual situations.

**Lockdown Drills** are practice containment drills to train students and staff to react to threats from outside forces.

## Emotional, Mental and Physical Health Services

**School Counselors** - The foundation of student support in every building, school counselors are involved in a wide range of student and school issues including personal/social development, goal setting, student discussion groups, course selection and post-secondary planning, individual and group assessment, school climate and student activities.

**School Psychologists** - These individuals provide mandated individualized assessments to determine students' learning strengths and needs, assist with determining appropriate interventions and consult with students, families and school personnel.

**Mental Health Specialists** - Certified specialists are available to all schools for coordination of private services, facilitation of student discussion groups and consultation with student assistance and IEP teams.

**Nurses** - School health services are offered to assist all students with their needs.

