

Bellville ISD has always tried to insure a quality education for all students. Part of a quality education is providing a safe learning environment for students and staff in Bellville ISD. After events in the last half of the 2017-2018 school year across the country, safety has been at the forefront of everyone's thoughts and Bellville ISD continues to strive to make our campuses the safest in the State of Texas. Student and staff safety is an on-going and continuous process. Some of the efforts are highlighted here.

Bellville ISD promotes safety throughout the year. We ask that all stakeholders, guardians, staff and community members speak with students about safety and the need to report concerns to the appropriate school personnel.

Bellville ISD addressed the following items prior to the 2017-2018 school year for improving the safety of students and staff across the district.

Fencing Around OBI, 2013

The OBI campus was an open concept campus prior to the addition of security fencing during the 2013-2014 school year. The added fencing prohibits visitors from accessing the campus without checking into the front office.

Security Access Systems for All Campuses, 2013

Access to all campuses during the instructional day has been reduced to one door. The selected door can only be accessed through alerting a school employee. The employee, upon request, may allow the door to open and the visitor to access the campus. Protocols for visitors will be addressed with front office personnel during Back to School training. When a person is allowed entry into a building they report to the main office. If the person will be going to a class room or conference their ID is run through the RAPTOR system for any warnings such as sexual predator to alert the school to take appropriate actions. If the person does not have any alerts they are given a visitor badge and their ID is kept until they check out to leave the building.

Security Audit, per State Requirements, 2016-2017

Security Audits are performed one time in every three years, as per state requirements. The 2016-2017 school year was the last year a safety audit was conducted. Another safety audit will be scheduled after safety planning and implementation of safety procedures and recommendations to determine the effectiveness of the security measures enacted.

During the 2017 – 2018 school year, Bellville ISD took the following actions to improve student safety.

Some of these actions were based on the Governor's School and Firearm Safety Action Plan issued after the Santa Fe shooting tragedy.

Needs Assessment, June 2018

Centurion Solutions provided a security assessment based on the Texas Schools Security Audit procedures during the first week of June. All campuses were evaluated, and the final report was presented to BISD on June 8, 2018. The security needs assessment has driven the training and needs of the district.

Approval of 4 School Resource Officers (SROs), June 2018/Meeting with Principals and SROs, July 2018

Updates: SROs have been on campuses since the start of the school year.

During the June 21, 2018 meeting, the BISD the School Board approved the hiring of four SROs to work on the campuses during the instructional day. The officers will be assigned by administration for the particular campuses. Bellville Police Department (PD) will work with BISD to schedule officers from Austin County Sheriff and Bellville PD to work the campuses. Officers will be assigned to campuses at the direction of the district.

Bellville PD met with the District to discuss planning. A separate planning meeting with campus administrators was also conducted. The purpose of both meetings was to discuss logistics of the SROs on campuses, along with the expectations and responsibilities of both campus personnel and the SROs.

ALICE (Alert-Lockdown-Inform-Counter-Evacuate) Training, July 2018

Four BISD Administrators were trained by ALICE instructors to provide onsite training to BISD staff. The administrators will train staff on ALICE active shooter protocols and procedures. ALICE training is specific to an active shooter situation on a campus. ALICE training was provided to teachers on August 14th and 15th during staff development. The training for teachers has two components: an on-line instruction and instructor led presentation. Teachers will work through the on-line components along with completing an exam. After completion of the on-line modules, teachers will then receive information from the instructors and work through scenarios on how to respond in an active shooter situation.

Texas School Safety Center Training (Reunification Training, Standard Response Protocol "I love you guys", School Threat Assessment), Summer of 2018

BISD has attended the three training sessions, provided during the summer of 2018 by the Texas School Safety Center, in direct response to active school shooter situations. The training sessions were attended and resources addressed to strengthen BISD Emergency Operations Plans. BISD emergency operations plans will be strengthened through the campuses, addressing reunification processes. Plans will also be updated to address armed intruder situations as well as protocols to limit school entry.

The High School and OBP will be limited to 3 entry points at the start of the day and the other campuses will have 2 entry points at the start of the day that are monitored by school employees along with the SRO.

West End Fencing Proposal, Summer of 2018 (Update currently in progress)

Update: Fencing has begun at West End Elementary and should be finished by November 15.

BISD has gathered quotes to fence the back half of West End Elementary. The proposed fencing will provide an enhanced level of security to West End Elementary. Plans have been evaluated by Region 6 for the best possible way of fencing the building at West End to promote student and staff safety. A fencing recommendation will be presented to the School Board at the August Board Meeting.

PBK Meeting, Regarding Long Range Planning and Overall Safety, July 2018

Update: PBK has reviewed and walked the campuses. PBK will have an assessment update for BISD prior to Thanksgiving about a long range plan for recommended safety additions to BISD campuses.

BISD met with PBK architecture regarding school safety needs. PBK has created a school safety division to help school districts address school safety concerns. The PBK team is led by a former school district police chief to help address school concerns. PBK has given a quote to Bellville ISD to review and update Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) based on security improvements, to create a long range plan with prioritize and cost associated, and administrators training on procedures and protocols for emergency planning.

Region 6 Mental Health Training for Counselors, July 2018

Region 6 provided mental health training during the summer at multiple sites for school personnel. BISD Counselors were in attendance. If any personnel were not available during the training session, additional opportunities will be available during the school year. Mental health training was provided by Region 6 and Texarkana to teachers during August staff development.

In an effort to address the current school safety risks in the US and continue to improve student and staff safety, BISD will implement the following programs during the current school year.

Reminder: School safety incidents—some of which are predictable, and some are not—require districts to focus on three phases of situations: the actual event; the aftermath of the event; and most importantly, how to prepare for the event. Effectively school safety and security is a continuous process to create the lowest risk environment for students and staff. Security planning and processes need to be regularly reviewed and updated, because existing conditions, campus needs, and potential risk change over time.

Emergency Management Plans (Currently have and approved by State) Update to Campus and Event-Specific

Update: Plans have been updated and reviewed with principals at the start of school year. Principals reviewed the plans with campus staff during training before the school year.

On July 31, 2018, BISD staff attended the School Safety Center Emergency Operations Planning Workshop. EOPs will be updated prior to the start of the school year to include active shooter protocols, along with plans for reunification of students, in the event of an active shooter situation.

Teacher Training (Active shooter, Bullying, Mental Health), Aug 2018 during staff development

Update: Teacher training has been completed and all BISD campuses have conducted lockdown drills.

Teacher training sessions are planned for August 2018, to train staff to promote student safety and be prepared for possible violent situations on campus. With the more prevalent occurrence of violent situations in schools, BISD will implement staff development to prepare to deal with the situation and recognize high risk variables to prevent violent situations from occurring. ALICE training was implemented for all campus staff. Training addressed topics such as how to handle active shooter situations.

Stay Alert (enhance anonymous reporting system), Aug 2018

Update: Stay Alert is currently active on all campuses and all BISD websites have an active link to the Stay Alert tip line. Promotional Material are on all campuses at this time.

Stay Alert is an anonymous tip line resource provided by Edwards Risk Management. BISD has always had an anonymous bullying reporting system, through the district website. The Stay Alert program will provide a 24/7 anonymous reporting system to enhance the district's reporting system. The Stay Alert program will provide the promotional materials to increase student and community awareness of anonymous reporting, for both bullying and possible threats to students.

The Stay Alert anonymous tip line will allow students and parents to report issues ranging from bullying to threats against the school. The service will allow for 24/7 monitoring and, based on the severity of the threat, a plan of action will be implemented. In the case of severe situations of immediate danger, law enforcement be notified by Stay Alert in addition to the school leadership. In the event of a non-emergency situation, the District will be notified and the information given to the appropriate campus.

Campus administrators were provided information and promotional information given to all campuses.

Creating Threat Assessment Teams, Aug/Sept 2018

Update: Administrators from all campuses have attended training from Texas School Safety Center. School Threat Assessment Teams have been established and used as possible threats are reported on campuses.

BISD attended in July SIGMA Threat Assessment training, as recommended in the Governor's school safety plan. The district by the end of September will have established threat assessment teams at the district and campus level. Plans and forms will be provided to Threat Assessment teams as provided by Sigma during training. Threat assessment teams evaluate reported threats and determine a course of action based on the information. The course of action can range from law enforcement to parent contact to counseling based on determination of the threat assessment team of the credibility and severity of the threat. The teams consist of administrators, mental health experts (counselor or Texana), teachers who know students, and law enforcement.

Watch D.O.G.S.(Dads of Great Students) Program at Elementary Campuses (Parental support on campus)

Update: Watch Dog launch parties were held at elementary campuses at start of the school year. Watch Dogs have been participating on campuses since launch party and completion of the

background checks. Watch Dogs have been active and a welcome addition to our campus safety procedures.

Elementary schools will implement the WATCH D.O.G.S. program, as established by the National Center for Fathering. Elementary principals are partnering with their PTOs to establish the program in the 2018-2019 school year. The program will allow male volunteers, both parents and community members, to help community participation in the elementary schools and add an extra layer of security by adding additional adults on the campus. The volunteers will help monitor students in common areas such as cafeteria in the morning and hallways during passing periods. Training of the D.O.G.S. was done by campus personnel and the volunteers were given t-shirts to help identify the volunteers on campuses. Volunteers have completed and passed a criminal background check.

School Safety Coordinators and Safety Teams

Update: School Safety Coordinators and teams have been established.

BISD will establish a safety coordinator and safety teams in the Fall of 2018 for each campus. The teams will bring safety concerns to campus administration that need to be addressed. Campuses will identify a Safety Coordinator and Safety Teams established during the year. The goal of the safety teams is to identify concerns of campus safety such as doors repeatedly left open which could allow access to the school. Safety teams consists of campus employees to report possible concerns of campus and district safety.

Stop the Bleed a National first response to trauma training will be brought to Bellville ISD

Update: Trainings were held at the beginning of the year as listed. Kits are currently on the campuses for trained staff use in the event of a bleed trauma.

Stop the Bleed has a goal of teaching adults how to care for people who are the victims of trauma. This program allows for citizens to provide first care for victims prior to EMS arriving.

Stop the Bleed is a national awareness campaign and call-to-action. Stop the Bleed is intended to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained, equipped, and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. (From Stop the Bleed website)

This was a voluntary training opportunity for Bellville ISD employees. Training was conducted by Austin County EMS along with providing Stop the Bleed kits for each campus.

Training was conducted on BISD campuses.

