

LAYERS OF SAFETY AT IDEA



School safety is strongest when multiple layers work together.

Dear IDEA Families,

October was an exciting month across IDEA Public Schools as our campuses celebrated America's Safe Schools Week! Throughout the week, students and staff participated in activities, safety conversations, recognition opportunities, and reminders designed to strengthen our culture of school safety. Campuses reinforced everything from emergency preparedness and reporting concerns to the everyday actions each of us can take to help keep our schools safe.



While Safe Schools Week may be over, the work continues every day. This November, we want to take families behind the scenes and show you another important part of school safety at IDEA: the multiple layers that help protect our campuses from the outside in.

School Safety Is Built in Layers

There is no single door, fence, officer, or procedure responsible for keeping a school safe. Instead, IDEA uses multiple layers of safety and security designed to work together. Each layer creates another opportunity to control access, identify concerns, and help ensure that the people entering our schools have a legitimate reason to be there.

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Layer 1: The Campus Perimeter

Safety begins at our campus perimeter. IDEA campuses use perimeter fencing to establish a secure boundary. Before granting access through the campus gate, staff screen visitors using an audio/video intercom to verify their identity and determine the purpose of their visit.

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Layer 2: A Single Point of Entry

During the school day, visitors are directed to one designated main entrance. This allows campus staff to maintain control of who enters the building and prevents visitors from accessing the school through multiple entry points.

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Layer 3: Audio and Video Verification

Before entering the building, visitors undergo a second screening through an audio/video intercom. This additional checkpoint allows campus staff to verify the visitor's identity and purpose while ensuring anyone who bypassed the initial gate screening is screened before entering the building.

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Layer 4: A Secure Lobby or Vestibule

Entering the front doors does not provide access to the rest of the school. Our secure lobby or vestibule creates an additional barrier, keeping visitors in a controlled space until they complete the check-in process.

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Layer 5: Visitor Identification and Screening

All visitors must present identification and complete IDEA's visitor screening process before entering the school. Once approved, visitors receive identification and must follow campus visitor procedures throughout their visit.

And the Layers Continue...

Physical security does not stop at the front office. Throughout the school day, locked exterior and classroom doors, Texas peace officers, staff and visitor identification, routine safety checks, trained emergency response teams, and regular safety drills all work together to help protect our students and staff. Each practice adds another layer to a safer school environment.

Coming to Campus for a Fall or Winter Event?

November and December bring some of the most exciting moments of the school year, including fall celebrations, performances, family nights, winter festivals, and other campus events.



We love seeing our families on campus, and we want these events to be fun, welcoming, safe, and secure.

Why You May Notice Additional Safety Measures

Because larger events may bring more visitors to campus than a typical school day, families may notice additional safety expectations or access procedures.

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| <p>1</p> <p>Identify specific entrances and exits for families</p> | <p>2</p> <p>Limit access to certain areas of the campus</p> | <p>3</p> <p>Ask visitors to check in or provide identification</p> |
| <p>4</p> <p>Have staff or security personnel positioned throughout the event</p> | <p>5</p> <p>Restrict certain items from being brought onto campus</p> | <p>6</p> <p>Use designated parking and pedestrian routes</p> |

Your Partnership Matters!

We ask families to follow the instructions provided by their campus, even when procedures may look different from a normal school day. These expectations are not intended to make events less welcoming. They allow our campuses to create an environment where families can enjoy the event while we continue protecting students, staff, and visitors.

What Students Will Practice in November

Emergency preparedness continues throughout the school year. During November, campuses will continue practicing required emergency drills so students and staff remain familiar with IDEA's emergency procedures and know what actions to take when directed.



Fire Evacuation



Lockdown



Hold (Elopement)

Every drill, every secured door, every visitor check, and every person who speaks up adds another layer to a safer school. Thank you for partnering with IDEA Public Schools and for helping us protect the safe learning environments our students deserve. Safety isn't one thing. It's every layer working together.

IDEA Public Schools
Safety & Security