

BALTIMORE CITY --- PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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School Safety Update

Presentation to the Baltimore City Board of School Commissioners,
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Overview

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1. Safe Schools Fund Security Grant
2. School Safety Survey & upcoming evaluations
3. FY20 Safety Improvements
 1. **Visitor Security Procedures**
 2. **Signage**
 3. **Surveillance Cameras**
 4. **Metal Detectors**
 5. **School Safety Conference**

Safe Schools Fund

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- The Maryland State Department of Education has a 6-Year Capital Funded Security Grant program
- Baltimore City Schools has received the FY19 and FY20 School Security Grant.
 - **Each grant is about \$1 million**
- Fund must be used to make capital security improvements

FY19 Safe Schools Fund Grant

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Phase 1 Improvements

- Total State allocation: \$1,071,000
- Total local share match: \$80,041
- Results:
 - Completed lockable classroom door projects in 15 schools
 - Completed security surveillance upgrades in 11 schools
 - All 26 schools were selected through a data-based prioritization process

School Safety Surveys

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- Operations surveyed schools and cross-referenced the information with work orders on record and deferred maintenance projects in order to identify priority schools
- Operations surveyed School Police, ITD, and School Support Staff to determine priorities
- Secondary schools were surveyed about metal detector possession and usage
- School Police provided recommendations for camera placement

School Safety Evaluations

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City Schools will conduct formal safety evaluations in each school by June 15th

This process will include the following steps:

1. Using a uniform assessment tool, school buildings and grounds will be evaluated for visible and potential hazards
2. The outcomes of each school's evaluation will be assessed and shared with schools
3. An overview summary of the completed evaluations will be created for District leaders to review

Phases of Safety Upgrades

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1. PHASE 1: FY19 – Locks and Surveillance projects at select schools
2. PHASE 2: FY20 – Establishing visitor security procedures and corresponding security infrastructure
3. PHASES 3 -6: FY21 – FY 24
We will take into account the results of the safety evaluation and the first two years of investment to prioritize future Safe Schools Grants

Safety Improvements

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The following procedural and structural changes will establish a security baseline for every school building in the district:

1. Implement a district-wide Visitor Security Procedure
 - **Install clear signage directing visitors to a single point of entry & provide radios to school staff to support the implementation of the Visitor Security Procedure**
2. Install surveillance cameras at the designated single point of entry where they do not already exist
3. Install metal detectors at the single point of entry for all secondary schools
4. Host more School Safety Conferences at the Central Office

Safety Improvements

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1. Implement a district-wide Visitor Security Procedure with supporting investment of signage and radios
 - **Visitor access shall be restricted during the school day to a clearly marked, dedicated entranceway**
 - Note, students may still use multiple entranceways if school layout requires
 - **All visitors must be visually inspected and pass through metal detectors where they are in use before entering the school**
 - **All visitors must then report to the main office where their ID will be scanned through the Visitor Management System**
 - Radios will support staff in tracking visitor movement through the building

Safety Improvements

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2. Install camera surveillance systems at the single point of entry where they do not already exist
 - **Cameras will enable schools that are short-staffed to monitor their single point of entry and visually inspect visitors before granting them access**
3. Install metal detectors at the single point of entry for all secondary schools
 - **Metal detectors can be used for visitors and/or students**
 - **Schools may also ask to check inside bags as part of the security procedure**
 - **Each metal detector should be managed by two staff members**

Safety Improvements

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4. Host more School Safety Conferences at Central Office
- **School Safety Conferences are held in schools to help students and families resolve conflicts using Restorative Practices and conflict de-escalation**
 - **When there are safety concerns associated with these conferences, they are held at North Avenue**
 - **Hosting additional conferences at North Avenue would shift more of these conferences, which at times become volatile situations, to a venue where more security and School Police support can be provided**

Comments or Questions?

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