

At Franklin Elementary School on Friday, February 2, 2024 at approximately 12:20p.m., a young student, while eating lunch in a classroom, exited the school through an outside door. At this time three staff members were present in the classroom, one of whom immediately pursued the student and attempted to persuade the student back inside the building. Despite efforts made by the staff member to de-escalate the situation, the student proceeded towards South Franklin Road.

Upon reaching the edge of the road, the student momentarily stopped, while the staff member continued to attempt to draw the student back to the school building. Despite these attempts, the student proceeded to run across the road. An approaching vehicle stopped upon the operator's seeing the student. The staff member swiftly intervened, safely securing the student from a neighboring property.

In response to this incident, we are taking additional measures to enhance student safety. We are collaborating with the Fire Marshal to conduct a thorough examination of all external doorways to identify any vulnerabilities and implement necessary security enhancements.

The safety and well-being of our students is the top priority of the Surry County Schools. We are committed to continuously improving our protocols and procedures to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future. We deeply appreciate the swift actions of our staff in responding to this situation.