



## **School Safety & Security Overview**

January 2024

### **OVERVIEW**

The safety of students, staff, and visitors is one of the highest priorities for Crook County School District. We utilize several community-based strategies to prevent, mitigate, and respond to various safety issues and concerns. This report outlines the basic strategies and protocols we have in place to maintain a safe and secure environment for learning and engagement.

CCSD prioritizes safety through strong relationships and comprehensive systems, including:

- People
- Equipment & technology
- Preventative & response systems
- Training, drills, and exercises

Successful safety requires the collective responsibility and accountability of students, staff, families, and the community to maintain a vigilant approach.

### **SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

Crook County School District has a long-standing relationship with the Prineville Police Department to provide public safety coverage provided by School Resource Officers (SROs). There are two full-time officers assigned to CCSD. One primarily oversees Crook County High School and Pioneer High School. The other officer is based out of Crook County Middle School. Both officers provide coverage for Barnes Butte Elementary, Crooked River Elementary, Steins Pillar Elementary, and Grizzly Mountain HomeLink.

The CCSD School Board approved hiring a third, full-time SRO to join the district's public safety team. This new officer is scheduled to begin the 2024-2025 school year. The SRO assists the school administration in maintaining a safe and secure environment. School administrators benefit from the SRO's training, knowledge, and experience in handling difficult situations. They also build meaningful relationships with students and staff and provide a highly visible presence to deter unsafe behavior and identify trespassers on campus.

## **CAMERAS & SECURITY SYSTEMS**

Crook County School District employs the use of interior and exterior video surveillance across all of its school buildings to ensure student safety and security. These systems are used to identify and review footage relating to bullying, fighting, theft, and trespass, all of which threaten our students' safety and well-being. Access to our surveillance systems has been granted to School Resource Officers, School Administrators, and Technology Staff to support the review/archiving of footage as necessary.

In addition to video surveillance, CCSD utilizes Access Control Systems across all its schools. Access Control Systems manages and monitors door access through keycard access and scheduling to lock and unlock specific external entry points appropriately as needed. While some administrative staff have been granted permission to oversee their door access controls, most of the management of this system is administered by Technology Staff. CCSD has designed these systems to ensure that access to our buildings by non-CCSD staff is facilitated through one point of entry into each building, directly to the front office.

Finally, CCSD school buildings utilize Public Address (PA) systems to ensure broad communication between staff and students can occur as needed. Generally, PA systems can indicate the start and end of classes for schools with a period schedule. Additionally, PA systems allow front office staff to communicate as necessary to an individual room or all classrooms. These systems are critical to communicating emergency messages, including lockdowns, evacuations, or other emergencies.

## **SAFETY DRILLS & TRAINING**

Our students and staff participate in numerous safety drills to prepare them for various emergencies that may arise, such as fires, natural disasters, lockdowns, or other critical incidents. By practicing these drills regularly, individuals become familiar with the necessary procedures to follow in an emergency, increasing their likelihood of responding effectively and safely.

Conducting safety drills helps identify potential vulnerabilities in school safety protocols and procedures. Through practice and evaluation, schools can refine their emergency response plans to minimize risks and enhance overall safety and security on campus. We believe it's crucial to establish a culture of safety within the school community. By prioritizing safety and preparedness, schools send a clear message that the well-being of students, teachers, and staff is paramount.

## **SITE ADMINISTRATORS**

An ordinary school day is filled with never-ending excitement and unexpected situations that our staff respond to and manage. Our site administrators include principals and assistant principals, who oversee safety and security, manage staff, and build relationships with families and students. Another group of specialized educators, such as the dean of students, student services coordinators, and academic coaches, often supports them.

Administrators lead the way in establishing and upholding a safe and welcoming culture for all. It's important for administrators to clearly outline and fairly enforce a code of conduct for all students and staff and model values such as respect, kindness, and integrity.

It is also essential for administrators to help parents understand their role in school security. Parents should be encouraged to listen to their child's concerns and contact the school if any additional resources are needed. Parents play a key role in helping students feel safe and watching for potential risk factors. Our administration team strives to strengthen connections with families and community partners.

### **BEHAVIORAL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAM**

Crook County School District utilizes the Student Threat Assessment System (STAS) to provide an immediate and systematic response to threats of violence. STAS is a set of assessment protocols and safety planning procedures overseen and administered by a unique collaborative team of schools, law enforcement, public mental health, judiciary, and juvenile corrections to promote a safe school environment.

- Identify and assess threats of potentially harmful or lethal behavior and determine the level of concern and action required.
- Organize resources and strategies to manage situations involving students that pose threats to other students, staff, and the community.
- Maintaining a sense of psychological safety among our students, teachers, and parents fosters a learning environment that allows for teaching and learning that is free of the distraction caused by fear.

### **MENTAL HEALTH & COUNSELING SUPPORT**

Mental health and counseling services in public schools aim to support the emotional well-being of students and create a positive and conducive learning environment. Crook County School District has at least one certified counselor assigned to every school, with the goal of having two full-time counselors at Crook County Middle School and three full-time counselors at Crook County High School by the 2024-2025 school year.

Here are key aspects of mental health and counseling in public schools:

- **Mental Health Education:** Schools often integrate mental health education into their curriculum to raise awareness and reduce stigma around mental health issues. This education may cover stress management, coping skills, and the importance of seeking help.
- **Crisis Intervention:** School counselors and mental health professionals are trained to provide immediate support in times of crisis. It may involve responding to bullying, trauma, or other student emergencies.
- **Individual Counseling:** Students may have access to individual counseling sessions to discuss personal challenges, emotional struggles, or academic concerns in a confidential setting.

- **Referrals to External Services:** In cases where students require specialized or ongoing mental health support, school counselors can facilitate referrals to external mental health professionals or agencies.
- **Collaboration with Families:** School counselors often work closely with parents and guardians to address student mental health concerns. This collaboration helps create a holistic support system for the student.

## **SCHOOL NURSES**

Two full-time nurses provide daily care for students and staff. They utilize nursing rooms in every building and rotate time between in-town schools. A lead nurse at the elementary level splits time between Barnes Butte Elementary, Crooked River Elementary, and Steins Pillar Elementary. A second nurse rotates between Crook County Middle School, Crook County High School, and Pioneer Alternative High School. We also utilize a retired nurse who is a substitute and provides additional health coverage when needed.

School nurses typically have the following responsibilities in our schools: health assessments, First Aid and emergency care, medication management, chronic disease management, immunization compliance, health promotion programs, family collaboration, and outside referrals to other community health organizations.

## **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS**

Crook County School District currently uses PowerSchool, a broadcast system that allows us to send students, staff, and families important information about emergencies and weather delays or cancellations. This system will enable us to send emails, phone calls, and text messages simultaneously when immediate communication is needed. We encourage all staff and families to ensure permission is granted by the school district to send phone calls and text messages.

CCSD will also post important information and updates on social media pages and websites. In some situations, sharing information on social media may be inappropriate due to security concerns. We collaborate closely with law enforcement on all safety incidents and the best way to communicate with the families and the general public.