



Olga Hugelmeyer
Superintendent of Schools

May 9, 2019

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The tragic events at the STEM School Highlands Ranch on Tuesday in Colorado and at UNC Charlotte in North Carolina last week are heartbreaking reminders of the external perils that exist and the significance of our efforts to create safe and secure learning environments.

Ensuring the safety of our students and team members and the security of our buildings is a collaborative effort that includes students, team members, local and regional law enforcement agencies, the New Jersey Department of Education, and the Department of Homeland Security.


This partnership has resulted in the development and adoption of a crisis plan, built upon extensive research, knowledge, and experience, that prepares school communities for a full spectrum of emergency situations by outlining specific protocols to follow for each respective emergency event.

In order for us to ensure to the best of our ability that our students, team members, and visitors will be in the safest conditions possible during an emergency event, it is imperative that our schools participate in school crisis drills twice monthly as predicated by state regulations. Participating in drills and practicing the protocols for various emergency situations helps to provide our learning community the best possible opportunity to respond in a manner that enables people to remain safe, should a real emergency event take place.

Providing safe and secure schools is our most important priority and our efforts go well beyond all of our 27,000 plus students practicing lockdown and emergency drills on a monthly basis. Elizabeth Public Schools presently employs 167 security guards district wide, police officers in targeted locations, extensive security monitoring, metal detectors and camera surveillance systems. All district schools are locked throughout the day and unauthorized visitors are prohibited. The district also provides significant professional development in security strategies throughout the year.

We believe all of these practices are the hallmark of maintaining a safe and secure learning community in which your children can come to school focused on learning, achieving excellence, and realizing their hopes and dreams.

Sincerely,



Olga Hugelmeyer

Office of the Superintendent of Schools