

ABC's of School Safety

Clinton Community Schools is deeply saddened by the recent tragic event in Newtown, Connecticut as well past events at schools in Pennsylvania, Colorado and Wisconsin. These terrible incidents serve as a reminder that violence can happen anywhere, and schools must remain prepared to respond. These incidents also underscore the challenge of protecting students and staff in our free and open society. Reports from the U.S. Department of Education show that overwhelmingly, schools are safe and nurturing places for students, and our school administrators, police department and village personnel are dedicated to making sure schools remain safe learning environments for all students. This document outlines some elements we have implemented regarding school safety, organized under three categories: Awareness, Balance and Control.

Awareness

- Our schools remain **aware of the threat of violence** on our campus and are vigilant about protecting the safety of students. Particularly since the Columbine school shootings of 1999, schools nationwide have implemented comprehensive and integrated school safety and emergency response plans to minimize the threat of school-based shootings. These efforts have helped to thwart additional tragedies.
- **We frequently review and update their school safety and emergency response plans** to ensure they meet current needs.
- We are constantly training students and staff on safety protocols and warning signs. With heightened awareness, the school community is better equipped to respond to—and, when possible, minimize or prevent—a crisis.

Balance

- **We have taken a balanced approach to school safety, recognizing that a combination of strategies, rather than one or two extreme solutions, can be most effective in keeping students safe.**
- School safety measures include “human connection” initiatives such as fostering information sharing, support networks, peer relationship building, counseling and parental involvement. Such efforts help students feel connected to school, to their teachers and to each other.
- Schools should balance the need to secure school facilities with the need to maintain an open space for learning.
- Schools are overwhelmingly safe environments for children; a very small fraction of violent crimes occur in schools. Clinton Community Schools **must and will** continue their efforts to make schools safe places.

Control

- **We continue to do an exceptional job to control access to the learning environment.**
- Our school safety efforts take into account the features of the school and the surrounding community. These safety measures include maintaining a strong school visitor policy, limiting school entry points and conducting periodic emergency response drills.