

News Release: PGCPs Releases Student Safety Action Plan

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For Immediate Release

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Action Plan establishes timeline to address Student Safety Task Force considerations

UPPER MARLBORO, MD—Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) has released its comprehensive Student Safety Action Plan, establishing a timeline to address critical issues related to culture and climate, reporting and training, staff and volunteer screening, and curriculum and counseling.

An internal steering committee of staff members throughout the school system developed the Action Plan, which is based on considerations from the Student Safety Task Force, organized last spring in the wake of incidents at Judge Sylvania Woods Elementary School. The Action Plan is organized into four phases to be addressed by summer 2017. Highlights of the first phase – scheduled for completion this month – include:

Culture and Climate

- Create document with guidelines for student-staff interactions.
- Fully staff Office of Monitoring, Accountability and Compliance.

Reporting and Training

- Create multi-disciplinary team with county government partners to outline requirements for reporting.
- Ensure training for all employees, volunteers and contractors on suspected child abuse and neglect.

Staff and Volunteer Screening (includes visitors, vendors and contractors)

- Conduct pre-employment screening using state and federal criminal information systems and state Child Protective Services databases.
- Provide parent volunteers with income-based assistance for fingerprint background checks.
- Inform parents/guardians, current and former employees, students and the public about pre-employment screening procedures.

The Student Safety Action Plan is available in **English** (<http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=235882>) and **Spanish** (<http://www1.pgcps.org/WorkArea/DownloadAsset.aspx?id=235881>).

In addition, student safety training and information sessions are offered to parents and guardians through **Family Institute** (<http://pgcpsfamily.org/>). The free sessions cover best practices in safe learning environments, warning signs of sexual abuse and reporting procedures for suspected child abuse and neglect.

Fingerprinting/background and Child Protective Services (CPS) clearance checks are available for parents and legal guardians from 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., prior to the “Keeping Our Children Safe” training sessions.

Upcoming dates and locations:

Thursday, November 17

Charles Carroll Middle School, New Carrollton (Central County)

Thursday, December 1

Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, Beltsville (North County)

Thursday, December 8

Oxon Hill Middle School, Oxon Hill (South County)

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Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS), one of the nation's 20th largest school districts, has 201 schools and centers, more than 133,000 students and nearly 20,000 employees. The school system serves a diverse student population from urban, suburban and rural communities located in the Washington, DC suburbs. PGCPS is nationally recognized for college and career-readiness programs that provide students with unique learning opportunities, including dual enrollment and language immersion.

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