



SCHOOL SAFETY

WHAT'S NEW FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR?

New safety and security tools are coming to middle and high schools this fall.

Here's what you need to know.



Clear Backpacks

WHAT

All sixth through 12th grade students must carry clear backpacks. This requirement does not impact elementary school students. Students may carry a small, non-clear pouch in their backpack to hold personal items, such as cellphones, money and hygiene products.

WHY

Clear backpacks provide another tool to ensure our highest priority, which is the safety and security of all members of the PGCPS community.

Many large organizations including the NFL, collegiate stadiums and large-scale event venues have implemented similar clear bag policies.



Security Screening Technology

WHAT

PGCPS will phase in screening devices in all high schools and several middle schools as a pilot program. All individuals will be required to pass through screening devices at select entrances.

WHY

The majority of dangerous items confiscated in schools tend to be at the middle and high school levels. Screening devices reduce the risk to students, staff and visitors entering schools.