

Williamsport Area School District – 2026-2027 School Year Safety and Support Update

Dear WASD Faculty and Staff,

As we begin the 2026-2027 school year, the safety and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priority. One of our most important assets in maintaining a safe learning environment is you – our district staff. Your vigilance, awareness, and active participation are essential in supporting our district-wide safety efforts.

Safety and Security Protocols

- WASD was one of the first districts in Pennsylvania to implement the **ALICE intruder protocol**, training all staff and students for over 12 years. This summer, **WASD has a total of four certificated trainers**.
- As required by the **Pennsylvania Department of Education**, all K-12 schools conducted evacuation drills in the first weeks of the school year in partnership with local emergency providers. These are held annually alongside **monthly fire drills** in all schools and the District Services Center.
- **Stop the Bleed Kits** are available in all district buildings, and over 700 staff members have received training in their use through our partnership with **UPMC**.
- The Emergency Preparedness Procedures Flip Chart was developed and distributed to all professional staff members to begin the 2026-2027 school year.
- 27 Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) are strategically placed across our campuses to provide access to respond to cardiac emergencies.

Security Enhancements

- 2020 - A **\$1 million investment** in a state-of-the-art security camera system provides **over 600 cameras and sensors** across all K-12 schools.
- In 2021, the district installed a **main radio system** to ensure seamless communication across all schools and bus routes.
- **Secure vestibule areas** have been implemented in all seven schools to improve building entry security.
- All school buildings have electronic entry systems at the front door including the District Service Center.
- The **Verkada guest/visitor management system** strengthens building access security, while **upgraded door controllers and card readers** interface with our camera system for digital monitoring.
- **Panic alert buttons** have been installed in each school office to notify school police and administrators immediately.
- WASD participates in the **PSBA “Stop the Prop” door campaign**, with reminder decals on all exterior doors.

- The district is in year three of utilizing **ZeroEyes AI weapons detection**, fully integrated with cameras, providing 24/7/365 human monitoring and six additional cameras to enhance safety coverage.
- A safety and security survey was provided to all WASD faculty and staff during the 2025-2026 school year to receive feedback on security measures.
- 2026 - the Pennsylvania State Police performed their Vulnerability Assessment on all seven of our school buildings and the District Service Center.
- 2026 – Enrolled in **Curvepoint Founder's Circle Program** to develop and initiate concealed weapon detection, projected start date June 1, 2027.

Required Staff Training

Faculty and staff will complete **three hours of mandatory safety training** provided by PCCD:

1. Situational Awareness
2. Behavioral Health Awareness: Recognize, Respond, Support
3. Behavioral Health Awareness: Understanding Anxiety and Depression at School

Additional training

4. Behavior Threat Assessment Training occurred for school-based threat assessment teams during September professional development day.

School Police Officers and Partnerships

- In partnership with the **Williamsport Bureau of Police**, one full-time School Resource Officer (SRO) will serve the district: **Officer Thad Trafford**, primarily at middle and high schools, with support for K-6 schools as needed.
- WASD employs **seven School Police Officers (SPOs)** across district schools:
 - **Trent Peacock** – Lycoming Valley Intermediate & Hepburn Lycoming Primary
 - **Patrick Greene** – Curtin Intermediate
 - **Christopher Porter** – Williamsport Area Middle School
 - **Ben Laurenson** – Jackson Primary (new 2025-2026)
 - **Eric Wolfgang** – Cochran Primary (part-time)
 - **Jody Miller** – Williamsport Area High School (part-time)
 - **William MacInnis** – Williamsport Area High School/Cochran Primary (part-time)

All SPOs bring extensive law enforcement and security experience to their roles.

Emergency Planning and Coordination

- The **Incident Command Committee** meets year-round, including district administrators, local law enforcement, UPMC Susquehanna safety planners, and county emergency personnel for a minimum of four meetings per school year.

- This committee guides both short- and long-term emergency planning, covering weather events, bus accidents, fires, and intruder situations.
- **Comprehensive safety plans** for all schools are maintained on the **Navigate platform** using the PEMA template and shared annually with the county to align with state emergency guidelines.

Student Mental Health Support

WASD is committed to supporting the mental health and well-being of students to maximize their learning potential:

- **14 school counselors**
- **2 mental health coordinators** (K-6 and 7-12)
- **4 school social workers**
- **2 onsite therapists at the secondary level through Friendship House**
- **Friendship House** provides behavioral and mental health support to elementary schools through CSBBH services.
- **2 Student Assistance Programs (SAP)** that serve the middle level and high school level.
- **2 Intermediate Student Assistance Programs (SAP)** that serve Lycoming Valley and Curtin Intermediate Schools (new this school year).
- **SAP / Mental Health Assessment** completed by IU17 during the 2024-2025 school year.
- Development and implementation of intermediate health curriculum for all students grades 4-6.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to student safety, wellness, and learning. Your active participation, awareness, and support are vital to ensuring a safe and supportive environment across all district schools.

Thank you for your dedication to the Williamsport Area School District community.

Williamsport Area School District Administration