



**LCAP TOWN HALL MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2019: SCHOOL SAFETY**

Response to Parent and Community Questions

You need more school police and crossing guards.

GUSD works with the City of Glendale and County of Los Angeles to monitor crossing guards. If an intersection merits the use of an additional guard after it has been monitored by the City or County, and if the budget allows it, guards are added.

You need to make sure the children/ teens in the schools in La Crescenta really do live up here.

All GUSD students must show proof of address when enrolling in school. If a student is found to be attending a GUSD school who does not reside in that school's boundary, the office of Student Support Services will follow up with the family and require that the student obtain an intra- or inter-district permit.

You need to do something about the teens in Crescenta Valley High speeding, parking illegally, and leaving trash all over the streets after they eat.

We greatly appreciate tips from students, parents, and community members. Report disturbances or dangerous activity right away and a school or district administrator will follow up immediately. You can call the school's main office, submit a tip on the GUSD app, or call the GUSD phone tip line at (323) 999-6062.

Tips for Making a Tip

- Tips can be made anonymously, but giving your name and contact information helps us follow up with you during and after the investigation.
- The more details you can share in your tip, the better.
- Attach photos or screenshots of social media posts to the tip, when available.
- If possible, share where you got the information and who you got the information from.
- Do not hesitate to report a tip! If you see something that bothers you, trust your instinct and report it.

Why do some schools, like Mark Keppel, not actively celebrate any holidays?

GUSD follows Board Policy and Administrative Regulations 6115 for holiday celebrations and observances. You can view these policies at the following links. For further inquiries regarding a specific school site, please contact the school administration.

https://www.gusd.net/cms/lib/CA01000648/Centricity/Shared/AR_BP_FOLDER/BP-6115-CeremsObsrvs.pdf

https://www.gusd.net/cms/lib/CA01000648/Centricity/Shared/AR_BP_FOLDER/AR-6115-CeremsObsrvs.pdf

In order to provide safety at schools there should only be one entrance or exit. Multiple exits can decrease safety.

During start of school and dismissal, multiple entry/exit points are necessary to get students in and out campus effectively. During school hours, all schools have only one entry point, through the main office.

I would like to suggest metal detectors at all levels of schools (high school, middle school, and even elementary) to prevent school shootings and/or other weapons. While gun control is an endless debate in our nation, schools continue have shootings with fatalities. Of course, it's not ideal to have our schools become more "fortress" like; however, I think all families can agree that it's more important to make the kids safer so they come home at the end of the day, even if it means additional funds and additional time going through security.

GUSD middle and high schools currently conduct random scans with hand-held metal detectors.

Feedback for improving school safety: being inclusive. All staff at schools need to undergo training which teaches how to be inclusive. All classes at elementary level should be introduced to the "atlas" or "globe." There is a book by DK publishing called "Children like me." Reading, discussing that book would be a good start. Once children start feeling heard, understood by admin staff and teachers, once discipline is in the form of compassion - it will take care if emotional needs thereby reducing any harm inducing thoughts. Please do not have more drills about gun safety etc. It's creating fear in my elementary aged kids. School is a place of learning and safety and not a place where kids should fear for their life. Please give teachers more resources for teaching instead of gun training. We are living in a developed country and not a war torn area. Let's set an example of civility and dignity and teach our kids to see the world as one big family.

We work tirelessly to ensure our schools are safe spaces for all our students. We know that where students feel safe and connected, it is easier for them to learn. PBIS and Restorative Practices are strategies schools are using to build inclusive school communities. Please see our GUSD website site (<https://www.gusd.net/domain/3486>) for more information on these practices.

Some after school program parents know the gate codes. Kids can in turn somehow learn the codes. Please address this issue.

The GUSD Facilities and Support Operations department works with our schools and after school program to address the issue whenever we have concerns of codes being compromised.

On Banking Days, naturally teachers & admin are engaged in meetings from 7:50 a.m. until 8:55 a.m. Over time I have noticed more and more students coming to campus at their usual 7:45 time, even though regular supervised classes do not begin till 9:00 a.m. So, on Banking Day hundreds of students are milling around campus without an abundance of direct supervision. Just concerned because at all other times of the day we are diligent in providing supervision at early morning, snack, lunch, etc. Although I don't think there's been any issues, it's does seem like there is the potential for something happening when the students are allowed to mill about campus while teachers and admin preoccupied with Banking Day Business?

Please contact school site administration for support in this area.

How can GUSD better communicate with parents and caretakers to inform us about an emergency?

GUSD uses a communications system called Blackboard Connect to notify all families in cases of emergency. School sites have the ability to send phone calls, emails, texts messages, and push notifications on our GUSD app through Blackboard Connect. Additionally, the district uses LiveSafe, a communication app, to communicate with school and district staff and first responders in an emergency. If you have questions or concerns about the timeliness or method of school communications during an emergency, please contact your school site administrator.

During the bomb threats, we got an email but no phone calls or texts came our way even though every year we turn in emergency cards with the contact information for cell, email, and landline.

GUSD procedure is to call all families in cases of emergency. This concern has been looked into and rectified. In the future, the emergency call out system will be utilized.

Has there been consideration of security guards at the elementary schools?

Not at this time, however elementary schools have hired many yard duty assistants who assist with campus safety.

Can staff also be trained in CPR at a District PD [professional development] day in partnership with the Glendale Fire Dept.?

Many staff members receive CPR training as part of their credential or job description and we can utilize our partnership with GFD to have additional staff trained.

In response to the bomb threat at the two elementary schools [in the fall], are there or will there be any new processes implemented or put in place for added security/safety?

When a school receives a bomb threat, they immediately call the district office and the local police department (Glendale Police or LA Sherriff depending on the school site). The school and district then follow law enforcement instructions on how to proceed.

Is PBIS [Positive Behavior Intervention and Support] being taught in the after school programs, including ASES? If so, is it being taught at Franklin ASES?

Yes, PBIS is used in our after-school programs, including ASES. For site-specific information, please contact the school site principal or the Director of Early Education and Extended Learning Programs Dr. **Rebeca Andrade** at 818-247-0775 or randrade@gusd.net.

How does the school tie into the city, county, and federal disaster or threat systems/programs? Are there processes in place for transmission of information, protective measures, etc. that are coordinated between GUSD and city, county, and federal organization to include exercises?

In case of a disaster, schools use their district-provided emergency radios to communicate with the district office. GUSD works closely with the City of Glendale, the Glendale Police and LA Sherriff's departments, and the Glendale and LA County Fire Departments to address any threats or emergencies during and after school hours.

Restorative Practices are admirable, but fall short when the breakthroughs and epiphanies occur after the punches have been thrown and the bullying has occurred.

Restorative Practices is built on a solid foundation of building strong healthy school communities. Please see the GUSD website for more information on the three tiers of interventions and supports along with a video and handbook of the philosophy (<https://www.gusd.net/Page/9782>).

Additionally, we encourage all families to attend the parent and community presentation on Restorative Practices on March 13 from 6-8 p.m. in the GUSD Board Room to learn more about the research surrounding these practices and how they are being implemented in our GUSD schools. All are welcome. Dinner, translations, and childcare will be provided.

Hire more mental health counselors, academic counselors, nurses, teachers, and security on campus. Hold a safety assembly with students.

GUSD is always exploring community partnerships and funding sources that can provide additional supports in these areas at various sites.

How will you be gauging the success of implementing PBIS? How do you determine it is working? How do you determine it is decreasing things like bullying?

GUSD examines suspension rates, rates of repeated occurrence of negative behavior, and student survey data to measure and track the success of PBIS implementation.

How do you define success with threat assessment protocol? What data is gathered and what key performance metrics are used to gauge success?

The "Threat Assessment" is a standardized vehicle that helps school and district staff indicate the level of threat and respond with appropriate measures. GUSD catalogues threat assessment data from all schools in an effort to identify and address any trends or clusters that may surface. This allows for a more focused response and use of resources.

Although I understand having interns (37) assist with matters on campuses, it is not wise to rely on these not fully trained individuals. There must be an increase of counselors, teachers, nurses, etc. Students are also faced with a discipline plan based on their behavior. The community must come together on decorum. Students and staff must also know the difference between destructive and disruptive behavior. Perhaps the students have adults fooled that they don't know the decorum and that's sad. There are many types of schools and not every school is a good fit for every child.

GUSD is always exploring community partnerships and funding sources that can provide additional supports in these areas at various sites. GUSD is proud to offer many alternative educational opportunities, including Verdugo Academy Independent Study and Daily Continuation High School, for our students.

How do I become involved in the implementation of this program?

We welcome and encourage all families to get involved with our schools. We recommend joining your School Site Council or participating in your school's annual Safety Planning meeting. For more information, contact your school site administrator.