

The Public Schools of
NORTHBOROUGH and SOUTHBOROUGH

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT
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SCHOOL SAFETY

The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough places school safety and preparedness as its highest priority.* The District takes a comprehensive approach to school safety by focusing on prevention, education, safe school facilities, and school disaster management. At the foundation of this approach is a belief that school safety and preparedness centers upon programs, policies, and practices that improve school safety and climate, focus on the school environment, and enhance educational and other outcomes for students and schools.

This work requires a community effort and collaboration with safety officials, mental health care organizations, parents and guardians, town officials, and citizens. Our District partners with Northborough and Southborough safety officials and participates in emergency management training and workshops offered at the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE), federal, state, and local levels. Our protocols and practices are based on research and recommendations from safety officials at multi-levels. We all play a role in ensuring students attending The Public Schools of Northborough and Southborough are socially, emotionally, and physically safe.

Safety practices that the District will continue to implement:

The District requires all visitors to our schools to identify themselves whenever they are requesting access to our school facilities. All visitors are required to sign-in at the office and wear a school-issued visitor's badge. **At this time, September 4, 2020, the District is not allowing visitors as a result of the Covid-19 Pandemic.**

Our District partners with Sandy Hook Promise Organization and its Say Something training and tools. Say Something is an education and awareness program that provides tools and practices for our middle and high school students to:

- Recognize the signs and signals of a potential threat, especially in social media;
- Educate and instill in students how to take action; and,
- Drive awareness and reinforce the need to Say Something.

Our District embraces Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate (ALICE) protocols as a means of maximizing school safety readiness. More information about our safety process review, ALICE, and other resources are available on our website. Members of our Safety

Readiness Team are formal "Train the Trainers" and all students and staff participate in multiple drills to ensure that everyone is familiar with the ALICE options.

Mandatory training for all staff and students, which includes fire and safety, are conducted on an annual basis. We appreciate the partnership we enjoy with all safety officials, specifically our Police and Fire Departments in Northborough and Southborough. Our on-going effective planning and collaboration on safety and multi-hazard issues support our focus on providing a safe and supportive school culture.

Our District implements both the Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) background check on employees, including bus drivers, as required by the DESE and also the legislative mandate that all school employees be fingerprinted as a condition of their employment. The CORI system is an intrastate monitoring system while the fingerprint-based check is a national, interstate Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) database verification. More information regarding both background checks is available on our District website.

Creating a safe school environment is also about creating an environment free from any form of harassment or bullying. Our Anti-Bullying Plan and a form for anonymous reporting of concerns are available at the School Safety Readiness link from the District's homepage. It is also accessible from the Families tab located on the District and school web pages.

**it is important to note that the sensitivity of safety and security measures dictates the extent to which the District can share information with the community.*