

## Safe and Secure Environment

Our schools become safer places to learn and work.

### *Vision Statement*

We envision our schools becoming progressively safer over the term of this Strategic Plan as we make physical improvements to facilities that make them more secure and as we increase our human capacity to reduce safety risks and respond to crises and emergencies.

As Abraham Maslow described decades ago in his *Hierarchy of Learning*, safety needs being met is a prerequisite to learning. A student who is worried or concerned about assault from an outside person, or who feels either physically or emotionally threatened cannot learn. Good learners require that their basic needs are met, including the need for safety and security.

### *Opportunity for Improvement*

Our school facilities have deficiencies in perimeter security and in interior physical security that compromises overall safety and security. Crisis and emergency planning and staff and student response needs to be continuously improved but time and resources limit planning and training.

### **Root Cause: Facilities lack a secure perimeter**

<b>Long Term Strategies</b>	<b>FY09 Specific Actions</b>
Identify insecure areas of facility perimeters, and establish a plan to upgrade and/or repair them.	Reclassify and re-identify capital improvements needed to provide a secure perimeter to all school properties.
Mount a continuous and constant campaign to fund the repairs. Clearly communicate the importance of these line items for the safety and security of our students.	
Where possible, identify alternative mechanisms to repair insecure areas of the perimeter. These include grants and use of volunteer efforts.	

**Root Cause: Facilities lack interior security measures**

Long Term Strategies	FY09 Specific Actions
Identify insecure areas of facility interiors especially door locks, intercom systems, and other internal communications systems. Establish a plan to upgrade and/or repair them.	Reclassify and re-identify capital improvements needed to provide a secure perimeter to all school properties.
Mount a continuous and constant campaign to fund the repairs. Clearly communicate the importance of these line items for the safety and security of our students.	
Where possible, identify alternative mechanisms to repair insecure areas of building interiors. These include grants and use of volunteer efforts.	

**Root Cause: Crisis response requires continuous improvement**

Emergency communication devices for staff need to function as closely to perfect as possible but current Nextel phones and hand-held radios perform poorly in a crisis. School intercom systems have deficiencies.

Long Term Strategies	FY09 Specific Actions
Pay continuing attention to improving the capacity of the school crisis response teams.	<p>Utilize the drills and the October 22, 2008 “secure-in-place” event to identify specific improvements to our Crisis Response Guidelines.</p> <p>Implement and practice identified improvements in Crisis Response Guidelines in collaboration with local safety and crisis response officials.</p> <p>Evaluate readiness and adequacy of “Go Bags”.</p>
Improve communication systems and tools.	<p>Identify communications system improvements and costs.</p> <p>Identify emergency notification communication improvements and educate parent community and</p>

<b>Long Term Strategies</b>	<b>FY09 Specific Actions</b>
	public on changes and upgrades.