

Taking the lead in school safety & security

What is Oregon Trail School District doing to provide a safe, secure environment for students and staff?

Oregon Trail School District (OTSD) is a frontrunner in implementing school safety measures

OTSD's comprehensive efforts have put us ahead of recommendations proposed in 2015 by Oregon's Task Force on School Safety, and the recommendations proposed in December 2018 by the Federal Commission on School Safety.

Oregon's Task Force on School Safety recommendations:

- Establish and fund a statewide tip line, allowing students, families and others to report information about potential threats.

*OTSD students, families, and staff use the district's SafeSchools **Report It!** anonymous incident reporting system to report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any other safety issue.*

- Establish and fund a statewide threat assessment system to identify, evaluate and support students who present a potential risk for violence and self-harm.

OTSD counselors, psychologists, and administrators use a comprehensive threat assessment tool to screen students who make threats of harm, and to determine appropriate interventions.

- Fund and develop a statewide school floorplan database to store facility information for Oregon Schools to enhance the readiness of first responders.

Local first responders have access to all OTSD school floor plans.

- Establish standardized terminology for emergency response and drills for all Oregon schools.

OTSD staff is trained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) that provides a common approach and terminology across agencies for managing incidents. District Emergency Operations Team members were trained at FEMA's Emergency Management Institute, and School Emergency Operations Team members participate in on-going training and exercises.

Additional recommendations from the Federal Commission on School Safety:

- Provide access to mental health counseling

OTSD counselors and key staff participate in Mental Health First Aid training that provides a basic understanding of mental health issues, and the district has a systematic process to assess threats of harm to self and others. Our School Based Health Center provides primary medical care as well as mental/behavioral health care and/or referrals for K-12 students.

- Support character development and a culture of connectedness

The Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support (PBIS) program, implemented in all OTSD K-8 schools, promotes a positive, safe school environment by supporting the academic, social, emotional, and behavioral competence of all students. Our middle and high schools build positive school climate through their advisory classes and other engaging school activities.

- Address childhood trauma

OTSD staff is trained in Trauma Informed Practices that help them understand and support children and families that have experienced traumatic events.

- Employ trained School Resource Officers (SROs)

OTSD employs two Sandy Police SRO's that provide services to all OTSD schools.

Creating a culture of safety

Oregon Trail School District (OTSD) maintains a comprehensive all-hazards Emergency Operations Plan in collaboration with local police and fire agencies. The plan was adopted by the school board in 2011, and Emergency Operations Teams were created at every school.

Emergency response training is ongoing across the district. Administrators are trained in FEMA's Incident Command System, and our school Emergency Operations Teams participate in a variety of trainings and exercises. All staff is trained to initiate Run, Hide, Fight protocols in active shooter or other dangerous intruder situations.

Securing our buildings

The Sandy Police Department performs periodic vulnerability assessments, through a public safety lens, at all OTSD buildings and campuses - resulting in security upgrades that include: a single point of entry at each school, perimeter fencing, video intercoms for visitor entry to schools, and automated lockdown/alert systems.

All visitors must enter through their school's main entrance vestibule and be cleared by staff before entering the school. School building exterior doors remain locked throughout the day, and fencing creates a safe perimeter for outdoor areas.

Addressing safety/security threats during school hours

If it is determined that a potentially dangerous situation is outside/near a school, the school will remain locked, the building will be monitored, and students will not be allowed to exit the building until the situation is resolved. *If it is determined that a potentially dangerous situation is inside the building*, staff will initiate a trained Run, Hide, Fight response for safeguarding students.

Depending on the crisis situation, students may be:

- secured within their classroom or another location within the school building,
- secured at an outside location on school grounds, or
- relocated to an off-campus site for reunification with family.

Training staff and students to Run, Hide, Fight

The Sandy Police Department has trained and prepared school staff to respond to a safety/security threat using Run, Hide, Fight protocols, including techniques for defending against an armed intruder. All students K-12 are instructed by their teachers, in an age-appropriate manner, to follow Run, Hide, Fight protocols.

In the event of a threat, any school staff member has the ability to call a lockdown. Once the lockdown goes into effect, Sandy police are automatically notified, immediately, by text message — getting the information even before dispatchers.

Vetting rumors of threat

OTSD works in collaboration with law enforcement —Sandy Police Department and/or Clackamas County Sheriff's Office, who collaborate with the FBI in certain instances—to vet any rumor of a threat that could compromise student and staff safety. These law enforcement agencies leverage the same protocols and procedures they would use in any formal investigation to determine the validity and credibility of a threat and to advise the district accordingly.

Encouraging students to Say Something

OTSD students in grades 6-12 participate annually in the *Say Something* initiative. Say Something teaches students how to look for warning signs, signals, and threats—especially in social media—from individuals who may want to hurt themselves or others, and to Say Something to a trusted adult to get them help.