

*Additional Safety,  
Violence Intervention and Prevention Programs*

**Emergency Operations Plan** – This document outlines district procedures for a number of crisis situations, including severe weather conditions, medical emergencies, threats, intruders, violence or crime, facility emergencies such as fires, chemical or industrial emergencies and more. All teachers and administrators received a copy of the Teacher Crisis Guide and are trained in its use. Safety drills are held numerous times during the school year for students and staff.

**Safety Audits** – The Harris County Department of Education Center for Safe and Secure Schools conducts periodic safety audits of schools in our area. Every DPISD campus received an outstanding audit report, and HCDE officials stated that our schools received among the highest ratings of any district they had audited.

**Facility Security** – All schools have upgraded alarm systems and a digital video surveillance system. All schools also have back-up electrical generators. At some schools, additional lighting has been added to parking lots and entry areas. Contraband detection canines routinely visit schools each year. These highly trained animals are able to detect a variety of contraband items including weapons and drugs. All employees, volunteers and school visitors must wear an identification badge at our schools.

**V-Soft Visitor-Tracking System** – Each facility is equipped with a visitor-tracking system that utilizes a magnetic scanner to populate an online database of visitors to school campuses. The tracking system allows its users to monitor visitor access and to alert officials of individuals who are registered sex offenders. This helps notify administration and law enforcement of potential problems that may jeopardize the security of a campus. The system also prints a visitor badge that is issued and worn by the visitor.

**Internet Safety** – The Internet has become a powerful instructional and communications tool for schools. However, some Internet websites feature information that is inappropriate for children. Internet access in DPISD is filtered to prevent students from accessing inappropriate websites. While using the Internet, students are also supervised by staff members.

**Emotional Wellness** – Each school has a counselor, and the district has a psychological services department. These counselors and psychologists meet students' emotional needs in a way that respects privacy and preserves dignity. In many cases, disciplinary incidents can be prevented through counseling.

**Police/School Partnerships** – The district maintains close contact with local police, meeting with them periodically to discuss safety issues. In partnership with the Deer Park

Police Department, the district has three School Resource Officers available to assist with campus security.

**Communication** – During emergency situations, district staff may take advantage of a variety of communications tools, including mobile telephones, pagers and two-way radios. Deer Park ISD also participates in Crime Stoppers, through which students or others can offer anonymous information to law enforcement officials by telephone or electronic mail.

**Developmental Assets** – Factors that are critical for a young person’s successful growth and development. D.P.I.S.D. has adopted the philosophy of Developmental Assets as a district-wide initiative designed to assist our youth in avoiding risky behaviors. Research studies show that regardless of gender, ethnic heritage, economic situation, or geographic location, these assets both promote positive behaviors and attitudes and help protect young people from many different problem behaviors.

**Community Involvement** – DPISD is a member of the Deer Park Local Emergency Planning Committee, which consists of representatives from local industries, the school district, the city and the community. Through this committee, the district has a highly developed level of communication with its industrial neighbors, which is important during chemical emergencies. The district also participates in Harris County’s Ozone Alert System, which advises school districts and others when the ozone level in our area is high.

**Prevention** – Police agree that prevention is an important ingredient to safety. Deer Park ISD has a number of programs that educate students about discipline, safety and character education. These include Teen Leadership, Character First, drug and violence intervention programs and Youth Connect, which is sponsored by Rohm and Haas, Texas.