

Security Information for the Public - FAQ's

1. Who coordinates security for the Scotch Plains-Fanwood School District?

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School Safety Specialist
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Responsibilities of the School Safety Specialist include supervising and providing oversight for all school safety and security personnel; ensuring safety and security policies and procedures are in compliance with state laws and regulations; and providing the necessary training and resources to school district staff in matters relating to school safety and security. The School Safety Specialist will also serve as the district's liaison with local law enforcement, as well as national, state and community agencies and organizations, in matters of school safety and security.

2. What agencies guide and support the district's safety and security efforts?

Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP)

- The New Jersey Department of Education takes proactive measures to protect the safety and security of all our students and staff members. Through the Department's Office of School Preparedness & Emergency Planning (OSPEP) the goal is to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the school population by providing direct support to New Jersey's schools in establishing safe and secure school environments and increasing their capacity to respond in the event of crises.
- The unit provides support to district and school leaders in assisting with the establishment and maintenance of a school safety and security plan that addresses all hazards and follows the phases of crisis management planning – mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. To achieve these goals, the staff of the OSPEP works in conjunction with the New Jersey State Police, New Jersey Domestic Security Preparedness Task Force, and the New Jersey Office of Homeland Security and Preparedness.
- Through the OSPEP, the NJDOE is committed to providing information and assistance to both public and nonpublic schools on topics such as: site-specific vulnerability assessments, crisis response, contingency and continuity plans, target hardening, mitigation measures and communication protocols.

3. What agreement outlines the relationship between the school district and local law enforcement?

Memorandum of Understanding with Local Law Enforcement - The MOU has been designed to ensure cooperation between law enforcement and education officials and ultimately to protect the educational environment. *N.J.A.C. 6A:16-6.2(b)*13 through 14 establish uniform statewide policies and procedures for ensuring cooperation between education officials and law enforcement agencies; these policies and procedures are consistent with and complementary to the Uniform State Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials (MOA) approved by the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Education.

4. What measures does the district take to keep schools safe?

- Use of Class Three Special Law Enforcement Officers in all elementary and middle schools. SLEOs are retired law enforcement officers who previously served as fully-trained, full-time police officers in New Jersey
- Use of a School Resource Officer at SPFHS. A school resource officer, by federal definition, is a career law enforcement officer with sworn authority who is deployed by a police department in a community-oriented policing assignment to work in collaboration with one or more schools.
- Cameras - more oversight of campuses
- Access Management protocols to control entry to schools
- Annual review and submission of the School Safety and Security Plans as required with representation from first responders, community partners and administrators
- Annual staff training
- Monthly fire and security drills