

# SCHOOL DISTRICT OF HARTFORD JOINT NO. 1

DEDICATED TO THE SUCCESS OF EACH STUDENT

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CITY OF HARTFORD, TOWNS ADDISON, ERIN, HARTFORD – WASHINGTON COUNTY • TOWNS OF ASHIPUN, RUBICON – DODGE COUNTY  
HARTFORD, WISCONSIN 53027

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## School Safety

March 1, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The tragic events in Parkland, Florida, heighten our level of anxiety and reinforce the need that we must continue to stay vigilant when dealing with student safety, bullying and mental health concerns. For the last several years, the Hartford Joint #1 School District has had a detailed School Emergency Operations and Crisis Response Plan that was developed with the support of the area schools, police and emergency responders in preparation for unpredictable incidents. Police and emergency services personnel have participated in and observed drills in the schools over the years, which have included:

- Administrative holds for instances when hallways or common areas need to be free of students and staff for medical or emergency reasons
- Lockdowns for instances when violence or a serious incident that could jeopardize safety
- Evacuations for instances when it is safer outside of the building rather than inside the building
- Fire drills
- Tornado drills

When the crisis plan was developed, all administrators were trained in using the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) multi-hazard emergency planning for schools protocols. This year the Hartford Police Department has started the process to proactively enhance school crisis plan practices. Working with District staff, the HPD is training and preparing the staff to incorporate ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate) strategies. The principals became certified in October to instruct the ALICE program to staff. Last month the Rossman and Lincoln principals along with Officer Conrad started the process of training staff. Central School staff will start their training this month.

As I reflect while sharing some of these procedures and activities, we can do more. I met with Police Chief Groves and discussed the Police Adopt a School Program (police are given electronic access to our schools and randomly visit at various times during the school day) and the need to have ongoing conversations about student and school safety. We are also in the process of providing the police department with full access to an elaborate 90-camera system that monitors school activities indoors and outdoors 24 hours a day.

To that end, the Hartford Joint #1 School Board wants to review all of these procedures and will be planning a special board meeting in the near future to have a community conversation to discuss ideas and expectations for school safety. The School Board will determine a date for this conversation and provide notification of the time and place.

The School Board and administration look forward to continued dialogue with families and encourage you to reach out to us with your concerns. Safety is a priority in the Hartford Jt. 1 School District and we will persist in sustaining a safe environment for students and staff.

Sincerely,

Mark Smits, Ph.D.  
District Administrator

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