BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

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TOPIC

School Safety/Security

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

School Safety/Security is a concern for students, teachers and SRO's. Proper school safety requires physical security & Mental Support. SRO's & Metal Detectors are used to prevent students from bringing in anything that can cause bodily harm while mental support groups can help students by addressing bullying & group conflicts.

RESULT

The result of this report card will be to raise awareness about the state of security in our schools, and to be able to push future positive change in this topic.

SIGNIFICANCE

Positive change in school security is important for a number of reasons, the first of which is for the peace of mind for students. Learning in an environment that one doesn't feel safe in could lead to reduced academic performance from students, and even addition of stress to their life.
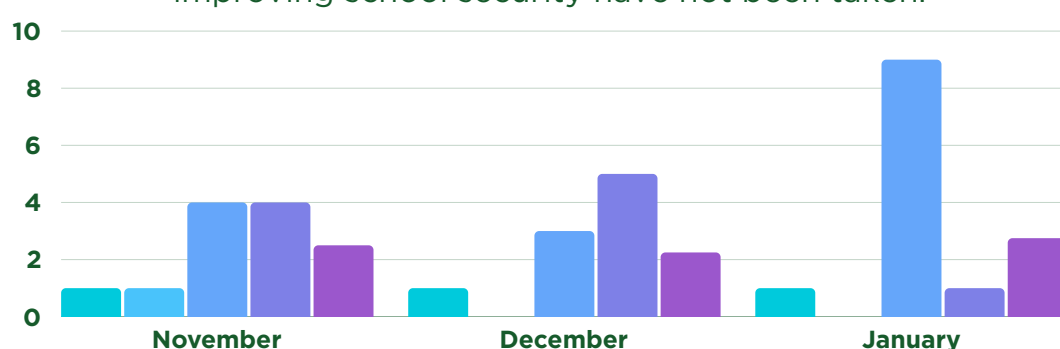
Another show of the significance of this issue is the amount of worrying parents do. Events of today make this worry for kids to be unsafe at school very realistic and can lead some parents to even not want to send their kids to school, leading to their future being possibly affected.

CYCP GOAL AND STRATEGIC AREA

All Children, Youth, and Families will be Physically Safe and Healthy - Prevention

HOW ARE WE DOING?

The situation in Alexandria in regards to school safety is currently not improving, in fact, it's recently been getting worse as time progresses. With the data obtained from an ACPS school board report, it can be shown the number of times a "call for service" for an SRO has occurred at their largest schools. The data shows a trend for the two high school campuses being relatively mellow when it comes to needing calls for service, but the middle schools require more attention. One possible outlook this data can provide is the increased importance of security that the high schools have placed on them, which causes fewer incidents to slip through the cracks, but the middle schools don't get such treatment. Even when looking at the average calls for service for these schools across these three months, the number of them ends up increasing in the end, supporting the stance that major strides in improving school security have not been taken.

ACPS Schools Calls for Service (24-25)

IMPLEMENTATION

Physical Strategies: Zero Tolerance polices, Drug testing in school, Monthly Safety Training, Safety Classes, Safe Rooms

Mental Strategies: Anti Bullying seminars, Student support (helping each other from angering), Incentive systems

PARTNERSHIPS

National Alliance on Mental Issues & APD (Alexandria Police Department)

PERFORMANCE EFFORT

We will be seeing better results in school safety, As students are getting the mental help they requre and see the means that are taken place to protect them physically they were begin to ease into the envorionment and see school as a safe place

PERFORMANCE EFFECT

Some new rules and policies will result in students having less chances if they ever end up making a mistake and causing problems in school. This will discourage other students from making the same mistake and overall is a worthwhile sacrifice. Some parents my not be happy with their child not being allowed a second chance but if they are clearly told beforehand than they should take full responsibility

RECOMMENDATIONS

A few police recommendations to put in place would be
- Zero tolerance for fighting (with exceptions)
   - The school board should start expelling students who instigate, and/or initiate multiple fights in order to maintain the peace in the schools.
- Full effect cell phone ban
   - School issued physical ID's to be reinstated and all cell phones are to be out of sight and taken for the class period to keep students off their phones.

ONLINE

ALEXANDRIAVA.GOV/POLICE The Alexandria police department has a school specific unit to help keep the schools safe
https://www.nami.org/
N.A.M.I . has many additional resources to help students deal with mental illness'.

CITATIONS

Contreras, John 3/21/25 "SY24-25 SRO/MOU Quarterly Reports (February 2025)" Alexandria, VA
https://go.boarddocs.com/va/acps/Board.nsf/files/DF3KUW539F32/$file/250321_Brief_SY24_25%20SRO_MOU%20Quarterly%20Reports_February%202025_v1.pdf

IN PERSON

Both the Alexandria Police department, and N.A.M.I. have physical locations as well as online resources to help people and students, and in turn keep people safe.