



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

By Fatima Mishaal



TOPIC

Student Safety

CYCP GOAL

All Children, Youth, and Families
will have Positive Experiences

RESULT

All young people feel safe
at home, at school and in
their community

SUCCESS STORY

We are celebrating the ACHS School Safety and Security Team. They help keep all students and staff safe every day. They make sure school doors are locked, check visitors, and respond quickly if something is wrong. Their hard work helps everyone feel safe and ready to learn.

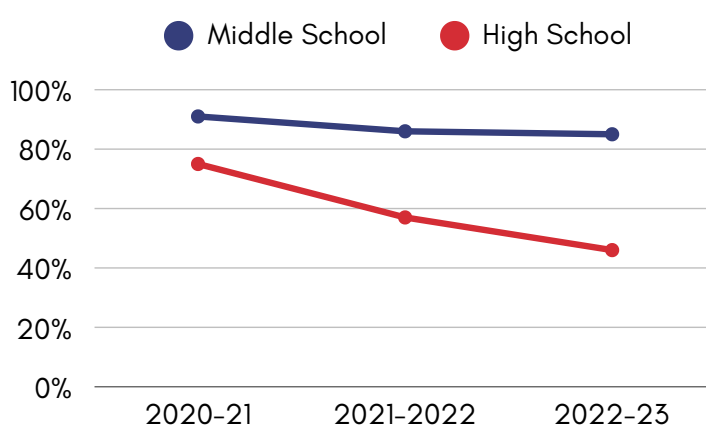
SIGNIFICANCE

These results matter because when students feel safe and live healthy, violence-free lives, they can focus on learning. Safe and easy travel helps families stay involved. When school feels fair and supportive, every student gets a better chance to succeed in school, life, and their future.

HOW ARE WE DOING?

STUDENTS FEEL SAFE

Recent report presented to the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) School Board indicates that feelings of safety among middle and high school students have declined, with less than 50% of secondary students reporting a sense of safety at school.



STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE

- 1. Mental Health Support:** ACPS has partnered with Hazel Health to provide virtual mental health services to students during school hours, aiming to address emotional and psychological well-being .
- 2. Emergency Preparedness Training:** The district has adopted the ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training program to prepare staff and students for potential violent intruder situations .
- 3. Community Feedback Mechanisms:** ACPS has launched the School and Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) pulse survey to gather community input on the role of School Resource Officers (SROs) and overall school safety .

CHAMPION

- Alexandria Police Department:** Collaborates with ACPS through the SRO program to ensure a secure school environment.
- Hazel Health:** Provides virtual mental health services to students, supporting their emotional well-being
- Hanover Research:** Conducted safety surveys and focus groups to assess and address safety concerns within schools

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

ACPS has taken several steps to improve school safety:

- Policy Enforcement:** The district has emphasized strict adherence to the Student Code of Conduct, with clear consequences for disruptive and violent behavior
- Community Engagement:** Through surveys and advisory groups, ACPS actively seeks input from students, parents, and staff to inform safety policies and practices.

HOW MUCH WAS DONE?

- ACPS surveyed students, parents, and staff to gather feedback on school safety.
- Partnered with Hazel Health to provide free virtual therapy for all students during school hours.
- Introduced ALICE training to prepare for emergencies like intruders.
- Created advisory groups and held forums to hear from the community.
- Strengthened door security, increased monitoring, and updated safety protocols.

HOW WELL WAS IT DONE?

- More students and staff now know where to go for help.
- Many students have started using the therapy services.
- Staff across schools have received emergency response training.
- ACPS is regularly checking in with families and students to track progress.

WHAT HAVE BEEN THE EFFECTS SO FAR?

- Some schools reported a small rise in students feeling safe, though most still say they don't feel fully secure.
- Students are more likely to talk to a counselor or trusted adult.
- Fighting, bullying, and emotional health still affect the sense of safety - especially in middle and high schools.

WHAT ARE PLANS FOR THE FUTURE?

- Make therapy services more visible and accessible for students and families.
- Use survey results to decide how police officers should be involved in schools.
- Work more with police, nonprofits, and families to improve behavior and school climate.
- Encourage students to help lead peer safety and kindness programs.
- Keep surveying and adjusting based on what students and parents say.

WHERE CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE ABOUT YOUR TOPIC?

- [ACPS Safety and Security Page](#)
- [Hazel Health Mental Health Program](#)
- [ACPS News and Express Blog](#)