

12th Grade Team - School Safety

EXPLAIN THE ISSUE (BROADLY)

In order to reduce the number of incidents in the hallways of Alexandria City High School, we hope to improve the job satisfaction for school security guards through three key programs: Create a chain of command so that officers are held accountable, but also have something to fall back on, create a program where officer alternate between the two campuses for a change of scenery, and perspective, finally, create a program where security guards are given an annual raise.

CASE STUDY FROM ANOTHER CITY

According to WTOPnews.com the city of Fairfax invested millions of dollars into getting better weapon detectors, and they have also deployed unarmed security to be the eyes and ears on campuses , and in the community.



The community has greatly benefited from the fact that they have unarmed officers watching over the community, which helped them stop the crime rates from going up, as well as lessen the concern for trespassing, larson, and loitering.

ALEXANDRIA’S CURRENT PROGRAM(S)

Even though there is no established program for violence prevention in schools, ACPS has implemented an action plan for emergency events such as the threat of a violent intruder, shooter, or a person of interest. This action plan is called ALICE, **A**lert, **L**ockdown, **I**nforn, **C**ounter, **E**vacuate. This helps staff, teachers, and students react tackle high risk level events and coordinate with the program.



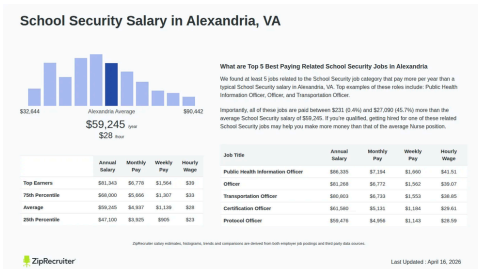
EXPLAIN YOUR POLICY PROPOSAL

WITH THIS PROPOSAL, WE HOPE TO LOWER THE AMOUNT OF INCIDENTS BETWEEN SECURITY GUARDS AND STUDENTS WITHIN SCHOOL HALLWAYS BY IMPLEMENTING THE “SAFER SCHOOLS, STABLE SECURITY” ACT (SSSS) THAT ALLOWS BOTH PARTIES TO FEEL MORE RESPECTED AND HEARD. THE SSSS ENSURES LESS HOSTILITY WITHIN THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM.



IMPLEMENTATION

In order for this policy to work, Alexandria City Public Schools would need to approve additional funding for school security programs and create a stronger support system for security guards. The school board and administrators would work together to create a clear chain of command, provide regular training, and allow guards to rotate between campuses for new experiences and perspectives. A task force and organization called “Safer Schools, Stable Security” (SSSS) would also be created to help security staff communicate concerns and stay focused on school safety goals. Over time, this program would improve teamwork, accountability, and morale among school security guards.



PROJECTED COST

It is estimated that the security guards in Alexandria city public schools make about \$19 an hour. If we want to increase that by \$5 dollars meaning they would earn \$24 an hour, the estimated cost for each would be a minimum of \$49,920 annually for each security guard we hire. In the coming budget, we would also have to take into account their benefits which would increase the allotted spent overall. While this is something at we wish to accomplish, we understand that Alexandria's current financial state may hinder this process.

PRACTICALITY

For this plan to work, Alexandria would need to budget more money for ACPS so that all security guards can receive raises and additional staff can be hired. The city could also create a task force to relay critical information, helping briefings run smoothly and keeping security focused on lowering crime rates and improving morale. In addition, an organization called “Safer Schools, Stable Security” (SSSS) could be formed to ensure that all security staff feel heard and that their concerns are addressed. This organization would support a clear chain of command, provide regular briefings, and set weekly or monthly goals based on the crime and issues affecting the schools and the surrounding community.

ROLLOUT/TIMELINE

This program would have to go through a multi step process that has to be initiated by the school's faculty or superintendent. After that, there will be a draft of the policy made by an administrative team that make sure everything aligns with v b legal regulation. Then the policy would be open for public comments for a 30 day duration. When this is all approved, the policy would will undergo a school board vote.

I think that Gov. Spanberger would be the biggest supporter on this topic because she has already signed many bipartisan bills stating that she wants to keep school safe, and how she intends to go about it.

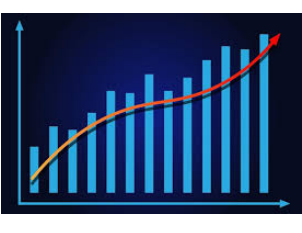
On organization that would support this is Virginia Center of School and Campus Safety. One thing that needs to happen in order or this work is if Alexandria budgets more money for ACPS to give all of the security guards a raise, and employ more.

Alexandria can come up with a task force that can relay critical information, so the the briefings can go smoothly. Having this force can also keep security on track when it come to accomplishing the goal of bringing crime rates down, and security morale up.

An organization that we can create is the ‘ Safer Schools, Stable Security’ (SSSS) will ensure that all of security feel heard, and all of their concerns are met. This can also be where the ‘Chain of Command comes in and where the guards can be briefed on what the goal is for the week or month depending on the crime and trouble that is happening in the schools and community

PROJECTED RESULTS

We expect this program to lower the number of fights, violence, trespassing, and other incidents in school hallways. With more motivated and supported security guards, students and teachers would likely feel safer during the school day. A safer school environment could also help students focus better in class and improve overall learning. Based on similar programs in other communities, increased security support has helped reduce crime and improve public confidence in safety. Overall, this policy would create a more positive and secure environment for students, staff, and the Alexandria community.



COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT IMPACT

There would be no environmental impact on water systems or wildlife. The main change might be a small increase in traffic because of more security guards being employed. According to ALXnow.com, the Alexandria community would likely be pleased to have additional security, as it could help lower the crime rate. With more security, the community could better advocate for students and teachers who feel unsafe. Overall, while no specific group would be negatively impacted more than others, students in particular would benefit from the increased security presence.

BARRIERS

1. Not enough funding for the security guards leading to collapse of the whole program.
2. The command chain leads to jealousy or performance issues.
3. Too much security, they get too serious and intense and leads to students feeling more unsafe which is the opposite of what our program is supposed to do.

CITATIONS

-ALXnow.com - Alexandria Now. (2025, October 11). ALXnow | Alexandria, Va. Breaking News, Local Events and Community Happenings.
<https://www.alxnow.com/>

-ZipRecruiter. (2026, May 4). School Security Salary in Alexandria, VA [Review of School Security Salary in Alexandria, VA].
<https://www.ziprecruiter.com/Salaries/School-Security-Salary-in-Alexandria,VA>