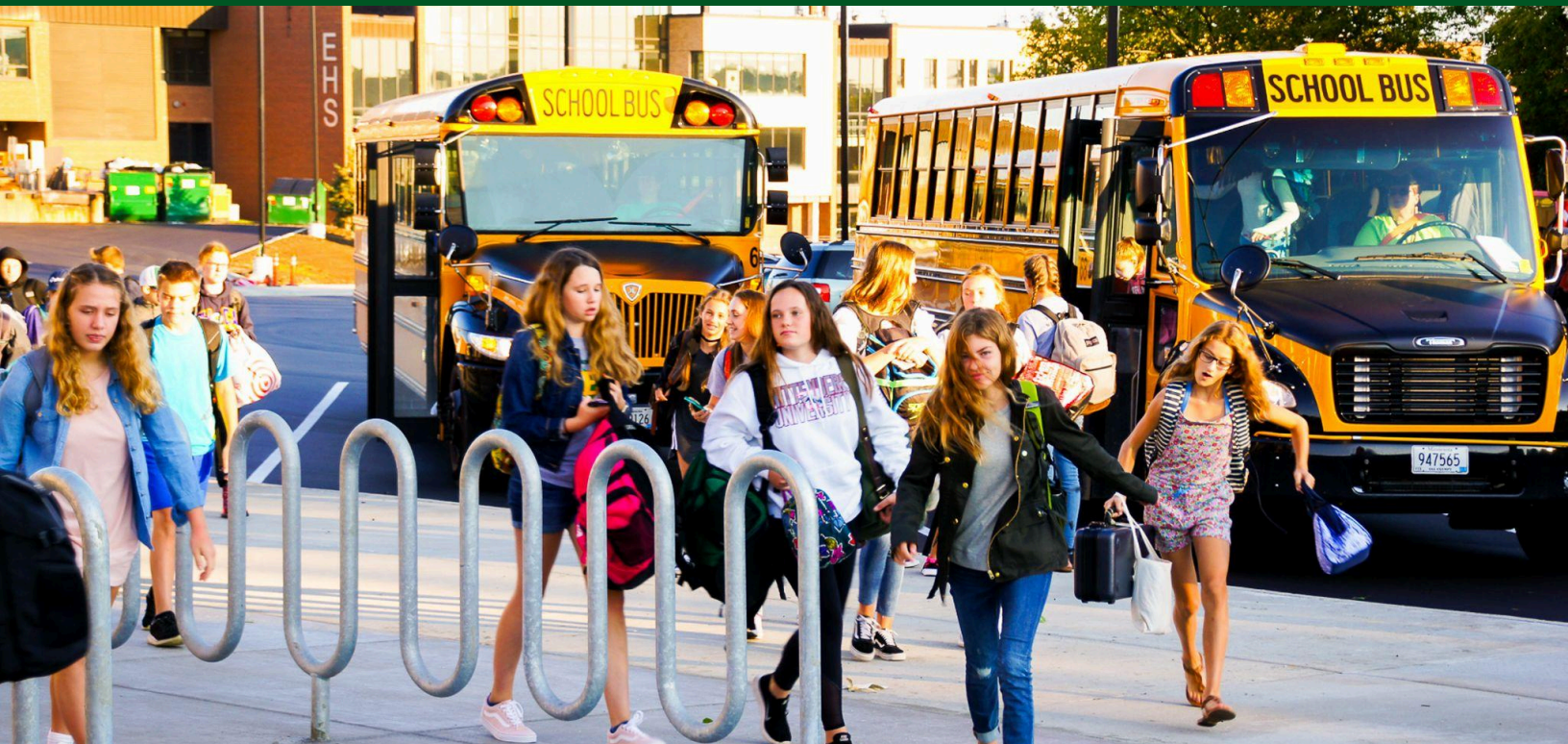Edina Public Schools
DEFINING EXCELLENCE

Defining Excellence: A Safety & Security Assessment Action Plan

2025–2026

> This action plan outlines Edina Public Schools' continued efforts to assess and enhance safety and security across all district facilities.

Building on foundational work completed in 2024–2025, the plan details a phased approach for the 2025–2026 school year, culminating in a set of recommendations to guide future investments and improvements.

Purpose and Vision

Edina Public Schools is committed to maintaining a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment where all students, staff, and families feel secure and valued. Safety encompasses not only physical protection, but also emotional well-being, proactive prevention strategies, and community trust. This proposal continues the intentional and collaborative work initiated during the 2024–2025 school year, reflecting our district's ongoing commitment to safety and security.

Last year, the district conducted a review of safety and security needs across all facilities. This included evaluating physical infrastructure such as doors, windows, and access systems; as well as advanced technologies like AI-enabled security cameras and wearable staff alert systems. The district evaluated anonymous reporting tools through the Sandy Hook Promise app and enhanced staff training to better support student and staff wellness. We have also continued to refine emergency response processes. These efforts were grounded in a holistic, data-informed approach that balanced physical safety with the need to maintain a positive and welcoming learning environment.

As technologies, threats, and best practices continue to evolve rapidly, it is essential that we remain proactive and adaptive. This plan outlines the framework for conducting a comprehensive assessment of current safety and security practices across the district. The goal of the 2025–2026 school year is to evaluate systems, gather input, analyze data, and identify opportunities for improvement. This process will culminate in a set of recommendations delivered to the School Board in May 2026, which will guide short- and long-term safety enhancements.

This approach aligns with the district's 2020–2030 Strategic Plan and emphasizes a holistic, data-informed process centered on four key elements: prevention, protection, response, and recovery.

Assessment Timeline

Phase 1 – Foundational Work (2024 - 2025 School Year)

- Conducted a review of safety and security needs across all facilities
- Expanded anonymous reporting tools through the Sandy Hook Promise app, which will be implemented throughout the 2025-2026 school year
- Enhanced staff training to ensure we are supporting and promoting wellness for our students and staff
- Continued to refine emergency response processes

Phase 2 – Planning and Engagement (Summer–Fall 2025)

- Present the draft plan to the School Board for review and input
- Convene a cross-functional team to oversee the assessment process
- Engage students, staff, families, and community partners to gather feedback and inform priorities
- Finalize the assessment tools and schedule

Phase 3 – Safety Assessment and Analysis (Fall 2025–Spring 2026)

- Conduct site walkthroughs with staff, law enforcement, and safety consultants
- Administer surveys to students, families, and staff on perceptions of physical and emotional safety
- Review incident data, system logs, emergency protocols, and physical infrastructure
- Evaluate existing tools and explore the feasibility of potential enhancements, such as:
    - Anonymous reporting systems (e.g., Sandy Hook Promise)
    - Trauma-informed partnerships for student support
    - 3D response mapping tools
    - Wearable alert systems for staff
    - Visitor management technologies
    - AI-enhanced camera systems and vehicle identification platforms
    - Evaluate the reliability and coverage of public address (P.A.) systems and alternative notification methods, including visual cues (e.g., strobes, digital signage) and redundant audio systems for individuals with hearing or sensory needs.

      ○   Emergency medical equipment availability and staff training.

All potential strategies and tools will be analyzed through the lens of site consistency, cost-effectiveness, and alignment with Edina's core values—ensuring that all schools have access to appropriate and effective safety measures without disparities in protection or support.

Phase 4 – Findings and Recommendations (May 2026)

- Present a summary of assessment findings to the School Board
- Offer prioritized recommendations for implementation in 2026–2027 and beyond
- Develop a multi-year roadmap for safety investments and improvements

Focus Areas of the Assessment

1. Physical Security and Infrastructure
   - Doors, locks, access control, cameras, entry points, panic buttons and alarms, and emergency exits
2. Emergency Preparedness and Protocols
   - Lockdown procedures, drills, communication systems, and reunification plans. BERT/ DERT training and table top exercises. Evacuation maps, AED placement and AED location maps/wayfinding
3. Student and Staff Wellness
   - Support systems, staff training, crisis response, early identification, and partnerships
4. Technology and Innovation
   - System reliability, integration opportunities, and emerging tools
5. Community Engagement and Communication
   - Transparency, shared responsibility, and regular communication with stakeholders.

Assessment Methods

- On-site walkthroughs and environmental scans
- Surveys and focus groups with students, staff, and families
- Review of incident and behavioral data
- Policy and procedural audits
- Technology and infrastructure evaluations
- External consultant analysis (as needed)

Metrics for Success

- Following the assessment phase, specific metrics will be developed to track progress and outcomes over time. These may include:
  - Reduction in safety-related incidents
  - Improved response times to emergencies
  - Increased stakeholder confidence in school safety
  - Greater use of reporting systems
  - Enhanced staff training and preparedness

Closing Statement

This plan serves as a roadmap for evaluating the current state of safety and security in Edina Public Schools. It prioritizes listening, learning, and analyzing—before acting. With engagement from our school communities and guidance from the School Board, we are committed to developing thoughtful strategies that are fair, inclusive, and effective.