



To: Board of Education

From: Douglas Whitsel

Re: Safety and Security Board Report, March 2025

Date: 3/4/2025

Dear Board of Education,

The trial of the new visitor management system at South is progressing smoothly, marking a significant step forward in refining our check-in procedures. This implementation phase has allowed us to enhance the visitor experience while simultaneously reinforcing security protocols across the campus. By streamlining the check-in process, we are ensuring a more efficient and secure environment for students, staff, and guests alike.

A special thank you goes out to Ryan and the entire tech team for their dedication and hard work in making this rollout as seamless as possible. Their efforts in troubleshooting and optimizing the system have been invaluable, and we appreciate their commitment to ensuring this initiative's success. As we continue fine-tuning the system, we look forward to further improvements that will make visitor management even more effective.

In addition to this, the trial of the vape sensors at the high school is well underway and has already begun providing valuable insights. These sensors have successfully identified key areas where vaping activity is occurring, allowing us to take a more targeted and strategic approach to addressing the issue. While enforcement remains a critical component of our response, our primary focus is on supporting students through education, intervention, and counseling services.

Our ultimate goal is to ensure that students who may be struggling with vaping have access to the resources they need to make healthier choices. By working closely with educators, counselors, and families, we aim to create a comprehensive support system that not only discourages vaping but also empowers students to prioritize their well-being. We will continue monitoring the data from these sensors and refining our approach to both prevention and intervention.

Another exciting development is the launch of The Bulldog Shield, our new monthly newsletter dedicated to safety and security in the Chelsea School District. The first edition was met with an overwhelmingly positive response. This engagement highlights the community's commitment to staying informed and involved in the safety measures we are implementing.

With The Bulldog Shield, our goal is to keep parents, guardians, and the wider community up to date on our ongoing efforts to maintain a safe and secure learning environment. Through this



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newsletter, we will provide regular updates on security initiatives, best practices for student safety, and opportunities for community engagement.

We deeply appreciate the continued support of our staff, students, and families as we work together to ensure a safer, healthier, and more secure educational environment. Thank you for being an essential part of this effort!

Respectfully,

Doug Whitsel, Director of Safety and Security
Chelsea School District