



Cedar Hill Independent School District

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Emergency Operations Coordinator

Unified School Safety and Security Standards for Texas Schools were written to provide a set of criteria to help school districts develop a quality emergency management program. This framework is based within the National Incident Management System (NIMS) and aligns school district emergency operations with those of other governmental, private, and volunteer entities. These standards have been designed with enough flexibility to meet the unique needs and varied requirements of all schools in the state. Furthermore, the standards, although geared to the traditional school day, are also applicable to school safety for the entire calendar year. School safety is a 24 hour, 7 days a week responsibility, with implementation of these standards addressing after-hours, weekend, and summer activities.

This document was built through consensus which represents more than a year of collaboration and statewide coordination. The intent of Unified School Safety and Security Standards is not to create additional mandates, but to present a list of standard practices to which schools, as well as first responders (i.e., law enforcement, fire, and EMS), can align themselves to provide for the best possible safety for their students, staff, and visitors. School safety must reflect the community, its capabilities, and the unique needs of local residents and students. It also must embrace state and federal mandates as well as expectations for safe and secure schools. Therefore, these standards represent a baseline tool for strategic planning and improvement for school districts statewide.