

Consider approval of new safety measures for the 2025-26 school year

1. Background:

In light of ongoing national concerns about school safety, Southwest ISD has taken proactive steps to evaluate and strengthen its safety protocols to better protect students and staff. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, over 75% of public schools in the U.S. reported taking increased safety measures, including requiring clear backpacks/bags for students, installing security cameras and perimeter fencing and also expanding mental health support.

To align with evolving best practices, District staff conducted a thorough review in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center, neighboring districts, and insights gained from both local and state-level safety trainings. These efforts were part of a strategic initiative to address both campus-level and community-wide safety concerns.

2. Process:

District staff facilitated two Safety and Security Committee meetings as well as conducted surveys to provide feedback regarding safety measure recommendations for the 2025-26 school year. Stakeholders that took part in the process included parents/guardians, Southwest ISD staff members, Board of Trustees and campus/district administration.

Recommendations that were highly supported included:

- (1) a clear bag policy at campus/district events
- (2) student clear backpack/bag policy for all grade levels;
- (3) scheduled wand searches at campuses.

3. Fiscal Impact:

N/A

4. Recommendation:

Recommendations from the Southwest ISD Safety & Security Committee are as follows: (1) a clear bag policy at campus/district events (2) student clear backpack/bag policy for all grade levels; and (3) scheduled wand searches at campuses.

These recommendations and proposed actions will be shared with Southwest ISD stakeholders through multiple avenues, as we continue to prioritize transparency, proactive planning and the well-being of every student.

5. Required:

N/A