

Texas Education Code 37.108(b) states: At least once every three years, each school district or public junior college district shall conduct a safety and security audit of the district's facilities.

Across the campus, staff members consistently exhibit a high level of vigilance, remaining observant and willing to engage unfamiliar individuals to verify their presence. Notably, custodial, maintenance, and grounds staff perform their duties at an exceptional level; each demonstrated awareness and accountability by proactively confirming that individuals on campus were authorized to be there.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The audit identified a range of opportunities to strengthen campus safety, ranging from immediate life-safety concerns to longer-term policy and infrastructure improvements. Findings are presented below in order of severity and recommended response time.

**Items in the Critical and High Priority tiers warrant action before the next school year; items in the lower tiers should be incorporated into the district's ongoing safety planning cycle.**

### Critical Priority — Immediate Action Required

**Bus key control and vehicle security.** During the on-site evaluation, school bus keys were observed left inside vehicles within an unsecured transportation parking lot. No key control system, secure drop box, or check-in/check-out protocol is currently in use, and the bus yard is not gated, alarmed, or otherwise access-controlled. This condition allows any individual with access to the property to start, operate, or remove a school district vehicle, and represents the single most significant security exposure identified during this audit. The district should implement a formal key control protocol — including a theft-resistant locking key cabinet or drop box, sign-in/sign-out logging, and a written policy requiring keys to be removed from buses and secured at the end of every route. This corrective action should be implemented immediately and does not require capital expenditure to begin.

**Intruder access at the junior high and high school campuses.** During the intruder assessments, the auditor was admitted to both the Brackett Junior High and Brackett High School campuses through Door B1-3 by a staff member or student, and was able to follow occupants inside without being challenged. At the high school, the auditor observed multiple empty classrooms with doors ajar (which was later explained as district procedure, doors remain open but locked when students are not in instructional setting), traversed all hallways without interior staff engagement, and was observed by 2–3 staff members on the grounds without any inquiry into identity or purpose. The district should immediately reinforce “no tailgating” expectations through staff-wide briefings, student instruction (“do not hold the door for anyone you do not know”), and signage at every controlled entry point. Door B1-3 and any similar high-traffic exterior doors should be evaluated for the addition of a staffed greeter, an intercom/buzzer entry, or a vestibule reconfiguration.

**Auditorium doors susceptible to chaining.** The main auditorium entrance doors were found to be susceptible to chaining, which would impede safe egress during an emergency. All push bar exit devices on assembly-occupancy doors must be of a type that resists chaining. Affected doors should be replaced or retrofitted with chain-resistant hardware before the next scheduled assembly use of the space.

### High Priority — Address Before Next School Year

**Steroid law signage at the high school.** Texas Education Code requires steroid law notices to

be posted in conspicuous locations in any building where physical education, training, or weightlifting takes place for grades 7 and above. No such signage was observed in any locker room or weightlifting area at the high school. Compliant signage should be obtained and posted in each affected location.

**Knox Box integration with the alarm system.** The Knox Box (or equivalent secure key storage) at the high school is mechanical combination only and is not wired into the alarm system. Integrating the Knox Box with the building alarm provides a tamper-detection layer recognized by both responding fire personnel and TxSSC guidance, and the district should pursue this integration during the next alarm-system service cycle.

**Locker security at the high school.** The auditor observed that lockers on the high school campus — both used and unused — were unsecured. Unsecured unassigned lockers create concealment opportunities for prohibited items. The district should implement a policy requiring all unassigned lockers to be locked and inspected periodically, and assigned lockers should be secured by their users in accordance with campus policy.

**Staff parking that identifies position or title.** Multiple staff parking spaces at the elementary and high school campuses are individually labeled by school position or title (e.g., “Principal,” “Assistant Principal”). These labels can unintentionally disclose personnel locations or roles to outsiders. The district should remove position/title labels from staff parking spaces and, where reserved parking is desired, use generic numbered or staff-only designations.

**Perimeter fencing at the band hall.** The fencing at the back of the campus does not currently extend to fully enclose the band hall. Extending the perimeter fence to include the band hall would close a known gap in the campus boundary and bring the fence line into alignment with TxSSC perimeter recommendations. This work should be scoped and included in the next facilities improvement cycle.



**Securing campus electrical mains.** The electrical mains located in the central area of the campus should be physically locked to prevent unauthorized access or tampering. A locked enclosure or panel cover with controlled key access is consistent with both TxSSC and NFPA 70E guidance, and should be installed as part of routine facilities maintenance.





### **Medium Priority — Schedule for Correction**

**Transportation facility lighting.** The transportation facility lacks adequate exterior lighting at the bus entry gate, bus parking areas, and general parking areas. Lighting deficiencies increase the risk of vandalism, theft, and personal-safety incidents during early morning and late evening operations. The district should complete a lighting study of the transportation yard and install fixtures sufficient to meet IES and TxSSC recommendations for school bus facilities.

**Transportation facility access and monitoring.** Several access-control deficiencies were identified at the transportation facility: the visitor entrance is not clearly signed, designated visitor parking is not separated from bus and staff parking, delivery areas are not controlled, exterior doors are not monitored by an alarm system, and maintenance areas are not consistently monitored or locked during lunches and breaks. The district should address these items as a coordinated package, beginning with signage and procedural controls (low cost, high impact) and progressing to alarm-system additions during the next service cycle.

**Transportation yard configuration.** Bus parking is currently arranged in a manner that requires backing maneuvers, which are a leading cause of bus-yard incidents. Where feasible, parking should be reconfigured to eliminate backing. Consideration should also be given to gate automation so that drivers do not have to leave the vehicle to manage gate access.

**Transportation facility life-safety equipment.** No security alarm system, fire alarm system, or eyewash station and safety shower were observed at the transportation facility. Each of these is a recognized facility-safety expectation under TxSSC and OSHA guidance for transportation operations involving fuels, batteries, and chemicals. The district should plan for installation of these systems as part of the next budget cycle, and ensure that staff are trained on their use once installed.

**Bus seating chart compliance.** Buses were not equipped with blank seating charts for use in the event of an accident. Laminated blank seating chart forms should be placed in each bus and incorporated into the daily pre-trip checklist.

**Cleaning chemical storage.** Cleaning chemicals — particularly any that could become hazardous if mixed — should be securely stored in a locked, ventilated, and clearly labeled location, and a current Safety Data Sheet (SDS) binder should be maintained at each storage point. The district should verify that custodial staff have received refresher training on safe handling and proper segregation of cleaning agents.



**Light fixture shatter guards at the Special Events Center.** Light fixtures within the Special Events Center were not protected by shatter guards. In assembly-occupancy and high-traffic venues, unguarded fixtures present a laceration and contamination risk if a bulb breaks during use. The district should inventory all light fixtures within the Special Events Center, install shatter-resistant tubes or impact-rated guards appropriate to each fixture's location and use environment (e.g., over seating areas, performance spaces, and any food-service zones), and document the upgrade as part of the facility's ongoing maintenance records.

#### **Lower Priority — Operational and Programmatic**

**Staff parking decals and identification.** No staff parking decal or identification system was observed at the elementary or high school campuses, and no student parking decal system is in place at the high school. While not an immediate life-safety issue, parking decals provide a low cost means of distinguishing authorized vehicles from outsiders and should be evaluated as part of the district's annual operations planning.

**Trailer and service vehicle tracking.** Trailers and service vehicles owned by the district are not equipped with locator tracking devices. Where the district maintains higher-value mobile assets, GPS tracking should be considered as part of asset protection planning.

**Hand washing signage and AED training documentation.** Hand washing signs were not consistently posted in restrooms and food-service areas at Jones Elementary, and documentation of annual AED training was not available for review. Both items can be corrected through routine facility and training-records maintenance.

By prioritizing the Critical and High Priority items first, Brackett ISD can rapidly close its most significant exposures while building a multi-year roadmap for the remaining improvements. The district's existing safety culture, visible law enforcement presence, and engaged custodial, maintenance, and grounds staff provide a strong foundation on which these recommendations can be implemented.

## **CONCLUSION**

Overall, Brackett ISD demonstrates a strong, district-wide commitment to safety, security, and student well-being. Administration and staff consistently work to meet and exceed minimum state standards, reflecting a culture grounded in accountability, care, and educational

excellence. The district's evident dedication to its students, combined with a proactive approach to safety, positions Brackett ISD as a model for maintaining a secure and supportive learning environment.

We thank the administration and staff of Brackett ISD for their cooperation and hospitality throughout the Security and Safety Audit process.



**Bryan D. Proctor II Donnie Camp**

Owner/Lead TxSSC Auditor Registered TxSSC Auditor

**Contact:**

<https://www.schoolsafetycertification.com/>

[info@schoolsafetycertification.com](mailto:info@schoolsafetycertification.com)

817-625-2700