



Executive Summary

Lincolnwood School District 74

September 2025

Presented by:
Foresight Integrated Solutions



Executive Summary: This Site Safety Audit for Lincolnwood School District 74, conducted by Foresight Integrated Solutions, comprehensively reviews existing safety measures and offers recommendations across the following key areas:

- Reunification Planning
- Overall Campus Traffic Safety
- Security Technologies
- Overall Campus Security and Safety

Reunification Planning Recommendations:

Reunification Report: This section addresses the critical need for effective student-parent reunification during emergencies. While Lincolnwood School District 74 has not experienced violent incidents, it wisely prioritizes preparedness. Interviews revealed a strong desire among staff for more comprehensive training on reunification procedures, despite some existing misconceptions regarding the current plans. The report highlights the "iLoveYouGuys.org" Foundation's "Standard Reunification Method" as the recommended standard, emphasizing its action-based, flexible nature and focus on accountability, contrasting it with ALICE and Run/Hide/Fight, which lack adequate defined reunification strategies. The Standard Reunification Method stresses the importance of continuous, cross-departmental training, including TableTop Exercises, and outlines the significant workload on the Superintendent if only limited staff are trained. Strong partnerships with local police and fire departments, including their Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), are noted as valuable assets for coordinated response.

- Allocate resources in budget and schedule to host the comprehensive two-day training and drill program offered by the [iloveyouguys.org](https://www.iloveyouguys.org) Foundation, Standard Reunification Method.
- Allocate resources in budget and schedule to send staff and partner with first responders in the [iloveyouguys.org](https://www.iloveyouguys.org) Foundation, Standard Response Protocol.
- Include all community stakeholders, including local law enforcement, fire departments, emergency medical services, village officials, neighboring school districts, First Student (bus transportation), relocation site staff and parent-teacher organizations.
- Allocate resources in budget and schedule to participate in the newly formed Incident Management Assistance Team, coordinated by Lincolnwood Lieutenant Laura Namovicz.
- Allocate resources in budget and schedule to train key staff on the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Tuition free training is offered by the

Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- Allocate resources in budget and schedule to train core personnel on key positions such as Public Information Officer and Incident Command. Tuition free training is offered by the Illinois Fire Service Institute, Illinois Emergency Management Association, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.
- Empower on-site personnel to take immediate, decisive action to safeguard lives, with administrative notification following as swiftly as possible.
- Continue to develop plans and procedures that include a detailed accounting process at the reunification site.
- Implement cross-training for the transportation coordinator's position, designating at least one backup individual.
- Develop TableTop exercises designed to encourage focused discussions based on reunification. These exercises prompt participants to analyze potential challenges and develop proactive response strategies collectively.

Overall Campus Traffic Recommendations:

A comprehensive traffic control and behavioral analysis was undertaken by Foresight Integrated Solutions to determine the underlying factors contributing to the operational challenges observed during student arrival and dismissal procedures at the Lincolnwood School District 74 campus.

- The campus implements a temporary street operation plan during drop-off and pick-up times. This plan is clearly communicated to parents and guardians through [SD74's website](https://www.sd74.org/family-resources/traffic-procedures)¹. The plan specifically states that students should not be dropped off at the Administration Building driveway.
- Encourage the Lincolnwood Police to continue their efforts in identifying community problems and developing solutions to resolve them. For more information, visit the [Lincolnwood Police Department](https://www.lincolnwoodil.org/237/Police)².
- Coordinate with the new Public Works Director, Mr. Jason Brianas to stay informed of any project that will affect traffic near/around the Lincolnwood School District 74 campus.
- Monitor reports of the Village of Lincolnwood Traffic Commission, which is an advisory body to the Village Board. They are scheduled to meet monthly.
- Encourage the Village of Lincolnwood and the Cook County Highway Department (708) 448-8006 to reinstall the "No Stopping, Standing, Parking" sign on Crawford Avenue between Pratt and Farwell Avenues. Although if a driver

¹ <https://www.sd74.org/family-resources/traffic-procedures>

² <https://www.lincolnwoodil.org/237/Police>

stops/stands to let a student exit the vehicle, it is still a violation of the Illinois Compiled Statutes (traffic code) 625 ILCS 5/11-1301. However, a driver can plead ignorance of the law stating that there is no sign prohibiting stopping/standing on Crawford Avenue.

- Continue to offer free busing to ease traffic and roadway demands of private vehicles. Approximately 25%-30% of students either walk, bike or are dropped off in a vehicle.
- Continue the practice of the high level of staff involvement at each building, all identifiable by high-visibility vests. Staff were tasked with pedestrian safety, student engagement, and ensuring only authorized individuals entered the buildings.
- Continue the practice of staff compliance wearing high visibility vests.
- Continue the practice of utilizing staff to direct vehicles and school children exiting the curb side of vehicles to the safety behind the bollards.
- Encourage the Lincolnwood Police Department to provide increased high visibility patrols in and around the campus during drop-off and pick-up times. Their presence encourages all drivers to obey speed, child safety seat restraint, stop signs, and cellular device laws. Their mere presence encourages safety. The balance of education, policy, and enforcement is done well with the partnership of Lincolnwood School District 74 and the Lincolnwood Police Department.
- Coordinate with the Lincolnwood Police to randomly stage a police vehicle around the campus, even if it is not staffed with an officer.
- The majority of drivers are compliant in following the rules and making pick-up and drop-off efficient. We often hear people say, "They all stop on Crawford, speed, disobey stop signs and are on their cell phone!" Staff from Foresight Integrated Solutions find that people tend to overestimate the prevalence of events that are easily recalled. When a driver(s) commits a traffic offense that stands out, witnesses associate that as a memorable experience.
- The parking lot at Todd Hall has been expanded since the last study conducted by Foresight Integrated Solutions. That expansion has been effective at reducing parking congestion, considering more parents visit Todd Hall than the other buildings.
- Todd Hall: A few impatient drivers drove left of queued vehicles waiting to drop students off at the curb, striking the raised concrete island curb. These drivers then parked in visitor spaces and walked students across the driveway in front of compliant drivers. Place one or two tall high-visibility cones at the corner of the raised interior curb to effectively remove the "unofficial" lane.

- Ample signage restricts turning onto Lunt Avenue from Crawford before dropoff and before pickup times. Continue the practice of staff placing cones on Lunt Avenue to prohibit east bound traffic past Todd Hall, then retrieving the cones.
- Vehicles exiting the Rutledge Hall parking lot are not allowed to turn left and ample signage exists. It is the belief of Foresight Integrated Solutions that this was to force drivers to turn right, to westbound Pratt Avenue. While some drivers violate the sign by turning left, several vehicles drive across Pratt Avenue to Avers Avenue. Technically, that is not a violation; however, it increases the time that vehicles must wait to exit the parking lot. **Consider:** Working with the Village of Lincolnwood to post a right-turn-only sign with designated times.
- Consider a public safety campaign in partnership with the Village of Lincolnwood that encourages safe driving, safe passage to/from school. [Safe Routes to School](#)³ is a grant opportunity administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation.
- It is not unreasonable to expect complaints from people that “kids” are driving mini-bikes, mopeds, etc., on sidewalks, confusing them with e-bikes, legally a bicycle. It is legal to ride a bicycle on a sidewalk, 625 ILCS 5/11-1512 unless prohibited by an official traffic control device, e.g., sign. They have the same rights and duties as a pedestrian under the same circumstances.
- Foresight Integrated Solutions finds that the process for drop-off and pick-up are in fact efficient and safe. There are no public reports of motor vehicle/pedestrian incidents involving a Lincolnwood School District student or staff member that were injured because of any traffic issues. Increasing bus ridership would naturally reduce the amount of pedestrians traveling to/from school as well as private vehicles.

In the past several years, the following efforts have been made—and continue—to create an efficient and safer traffic flow:

- Defined specific instructions to parents for drop-off and pick-up procedures.
- Structured arrival and dismissal procedures for both parents and students.
- Clearly marked parking and no-parking zones.
- Visible crosswalks and signage.
- Synchronized traffic signals.
- School zone signage to serve as a visual reminder.
- Engaged staff promoting safety.
- Police presence for both enforcement and visibility.
- Separation of traffic modes: buses, private vehicles, and pedestrians.

³ <https://activetrans.org/resources/education/safe-routes-to-school/>

Safety is the primary concern associated with school zones, and vehicle speed is typically a main focus. Most drivers are unaware of their actual speed. Over the past six decades, the predominant mode of student transport has shifted from walking to riding in a school bus or personal vehicle. This has impacted both the safety and efficiency of school zone traffic control strategies nationally.

For the past several years, Lincolnwood School District 74 has maintained uniform traffic procedures. This consistency reduces confusion for drivers, who can rely on familiar signage and traffic patterns rather than adapting to changes while driving. As a result, most road users demonstrate appropriate and uniform behavior.

Security Technologies Recommendations:

The landscape of school safety technology is dynamic and multifaceted, with various solutions designed to address a spectrum of potential threats and emergencies. A diverse ecosystem of technological vendors exists, each offering functionalities and capabilities to bolster school safety protocols.

- Maintain that all exterior doors across the campus are equipped with advanced door strike mechanisms, integrated seamlessly with the Access Master system. This provides centralized control and monitoring of entry and exit points, enhancing overall perimeter security.
- Continue to develop internal access control by implementing limited entry access in sensitive interior locations. Considerations for electronic door locking systems may include retrofitting hardware changes for installing wiring for sensors, locks and returns. Costs are estimated at \$2,500 per unit, excluding installation. Benefits include the capability to remotely secure doors, master key cards and fobs can be programmed to be deactivated.
- Digitally map the campus and each building that provides simple visual communication that provides:
 - Grid and template
 - Key landmarks and critical features (AED, natural gas, etc)
 - Site specific labels and nomenclature
 - Highlighted hallways, stairwells, doors, exits
 - GeoRelevant integrated floorplans
 - Aerial imagery

<https://www.crgplans.com/funding/illinois-section-50/> Lincolnwood School District 74 may qualify for funding.

- Continue to investigate Panic Button vendors - Alyssa's Law (p.7), wearable panic buttons that can trigger immediate notifications to emergency responders and designated school personnel. Illinois House Bill (HB1072) requires,

beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each public school implement a mobile panic alert system capable of connecting diverse emergency services technologies to ensure real-time coordination between multiple first responder agencies.

- Visitor Management Systems (VMS) allow for visitors to check in presenting a government issued identification card. The scan checks against national sex offender registries, custom watchlists databases of banned or potentially threatening individuals. One time use badges are printed. Continue practice of monitoring all guests, including parents/guardians, and vendors. Consider scanning all guests even for large events such as concerts, plays and sporting events. Minor entry delays are expected and accepted at large events like concerts and sporting events.
- Integrate the VMS with emergency alert systems, to include digital signage in classrooms, offices, hallways and cell phones.
- Camera systems should be cloud based (primary) with internal storage utilized as a backup. Initial costs for each internal server can be approximately \$25,000. Each building has one server, and loss of power will prevent remote access. Replace the low-resolution 1-2 megabyte models to high-resolution 4k models that allow for remote access.
- Consider integrating technology that delivers proactive, human-verified visual gun detection, such as zeroeyes.com.
- Consider sound recognition technologies that can detect gunshots and fireworks.
- The Technology Department is educated on the laws affecting technology in Illinois school districts, such as the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and the Student Online Personal Protection Act (SOPPA).
- Consider cloud-based systems that enable staff to access essential electronic records. PowerSchool is not cloud-based, consequently nurses would be unable to access medical health records when offsite, such as a relocation event.
- Develop a Single Sign On (SSO) method for end users to lessen fragmented solutions that require unique passwords that require updating.

The Director of Technology and his team continue to conduct research on multiple technology vendors specializing in safety equipment and systems. Technology vendors and their technology offerings rapidly evolve.

Overall Campus Security/Safety Recommendations:

The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)⁴ wrote that according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)⁵, there were a total of 41 school-associated violent deaths in the United States during 2020-2021, including 20 homicides and 17 suicides. From 2000-2022, there were 328 casualties (131 killed and 197 wounded) in active shooter incidents at elementary and secondary schools. In 2024, the incidents were significantly reduced, four incidents were reported. Two incidents occurred in Pre-K - 12th grade and two incidents at a High School.

The FBI's 2024 report on Active Shooter Incidents⁶ shows a 50% drop in cases from 48 in 2023 to 24 in 2024. Expanded civilian preparedness, improved collaboration between law enforcement and mental health resources and use of better technologies (AI and gun detection) have contributed to the reduction. Experts also credit red flag laws, and community reporting for early detection.

While Lincolnwood School District 74 has not experienced incidents of violence, it recognizes the potential for emergencies to occur. Therefore, the Lincolnwood School District 74 implements a preemptive strategy for emergency preparedness, recognizing the importance of planning ahead for potential crises. Lincolnwood School District 74 is dedicated to continuously improving its emergency preparedness protocols.

- Continue to maintain professional relationships with the Lincolnwood Police, Public Works and Fire Departments.
- Continue to adhere to the School Safety Drill Plan as mandated by the School Safety Drill Act, 105 ILCS 128/20.
- Continue annual review of the emergency operations and crisis response plans, addressing prevention, preparation, response and recovery for each school.
- Continue instruction in safe bus riding practices.
- Continue to develop and maintain a clear, rapid, factual and coordinated system of internal and external communication.
- Continued training for all staff on Stop the Bleed techniques is recommended, along with the provision of adequate tools. The existing red ready bags in classrooms and nurses' offices are equipped with tourniquets and pressure bandages. An increase in the quantity of these medical supplies should be considered. Illinois House Bill 1561 mandates biennial trauma response training for all school district employees. Collaboration with the Lincolnwood Fire Department is suggested as a cost-effective training approach.
- Continue to annually review updated laws related to schools utilizing the

⁴ <https://nces.ed.gov/>

⁵ <https://nces.rd.gov/programs>

⁶ <https://www.fbi.gov/file-repository/reports-and-publications/2024-active-shooter-report/view>

Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools and Technical Assistance Center (REMSTA), rem.ed.gov and professional organizations.

- We recommend that the Lincolnwood Police Department conduct random patrols of the interior of all school buildings, as well as their associated parking lots and ancillary streets.
- Transition from the Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate Method (ALICE) to the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Although both are option based, the SRP is designed to work in concert with the Standard Reunification Method.
- Educate all staff on the new Statewide Body Camera Compliance (law enforcement) and how it may/will relate to investigations (police involved). Note: cameras ***may*** be turned off when the officer(s) is engaged in community care taking functions, such as walking through the campus. Also, victims of a crime ***may*** request the camera(s) be turned off.
- It is recommended to continue utilizing Safe2help, a platform designed to facilitate the confidential reporting of unsafe, potentially harmful, dangerous, violent, or criminal activities and threats by students, schools, and the broader community.
- Continue to provide each Lincolnwood Police Officer with a personally authorized key fob, allowing entry into the buildings 24/7.
- Encourage staff that are focused and assigned on school safety to visit and engage in resources such as the:
 - The Illinois School and Campus Safety Resource Center.
 - ZeroNow.org that provides daily emails, webinars and other resources posted on their website related to school safety topics.
 - Safeandsoundschools.org whose mission is to support school crisis prevention, response and recovery.
 - The Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools and Technical Assistance Center (REMSTA), rem.ed.gov provides free on-line training.
 - C3 Pathways partnered with the iloveyouguys.org Foundation designed for school system employees. Their YouTube page provides hundreds of videos related to managing active threats.