

As a new Superintendent at Susquehanna and the board-appointed Threat Assessment Coordinator, I was pleased to learn about all the preventative steps in place and underway to ensure a positive learning environment to establish a haven and allow students to learn and have the most normal school experience as much as possible. Let's review what we do to be safe at Susquehanna Community SD:

1. Communication and Alert Systems:

- a. District radios for all staff.
- b. A phone system that alerts all faculty and staff.
- c. Regular communication with parents/guardians during emergencies.

2. Police and Security Presence:

- a. Lanesboro Police on campus, with State Police support in Gibson.
- b. Armed School Resource Security alternating between Elementary and High Schools.

3. Training and Drills:

- a. ALICE training for staff and students on responding to intruders.
- b. Routine active shooter drills.
- c. Regular lockdown/lockout and fire/evacuation drills.
- d. Bi-yearly bus evacuation drills.

4. Safety Teams and Programs:

- a. Workplace Safety Team for operational review.
- b. Threat Assessment Teams at both High School and Elementary School.
<https://www.scschools.org/parents/threat-assessment-team/>
- c. Safe2Say program for anonymous reporting of safety concerns.
- d. Periodic assessments for identifying safety and security threats.

5. Professional Development and Support:

- a. Navigate 360 training for teachers and staff on school safety and mental health.
- b. NEIU 19 series on Social Emotional Learning.
- c. FEMA and National Emergency Response training for administrators.
- d. The administrative team, guidance counselors, teachers, and staff continuously focus on students' safety and mental health.

At Susquehanna Community, teachers and staff consistently participate in Navigate 360 training, emphasizing school safety and mental health. It's important to note that NEIU 19 presenters have recently completed a comprehensive two-year professional development series focused on Social Emotional Learning. Additionally, our administration, myself included, regularly attends training sessions conducted by FEMA and the National Emergency Response and Recovery Training Center. Our administrative team, guidance counselors, teachers, and staff prioritize our students' safety and mental well-being. In light of recent events, we are particularly attentive to the emotional needs of our students. Our team is ready and available to listen and respond to these concerns. For any questions or further discussions, please feel free to contact our school principals or me directly.

John Rushefski
Superintendent

Resources for Community:

[Parent Guidelines for Helping Youth After the Recent Shooting](#) (The National Child Traumatic Stress Network – English/Spanish)

[Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)

[Coping in the Aftermath of a Shooting](#) (American Counseling Association)

[Trauma and Disaster Mental Health](#) (American Counseling Association)

[After a School Shooting - Resources](#) (American Counseling Association)

Resource for Administrators:

[Responding to School Violence: Tips for Administrators](#) (National Association of School Psychologists)

General State and Federal School Safety Resources:

[National School Safety](#)

[PA Commission on Crime and Delinquency – School Safety and Security](#)

[Safe2Say Something](#)

[PA K-12 Threat Assessment](#)

[Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency – School Safety Planning Resources](#)