



Columbus City Schools

270 East State Street

Columbus, OH 43215

614.365.8888

www.ccschools.us

In Columbus City Schools, we are SAFER TOGETHER.

We are safer when we work together to prioritize safety, when we act together to protect each other, and when we speak out together about the need to end gun violence.

The Columbus Board of Education and the leaders of this District are committed to doing all we can to keep students and staff safe. No one should be afraid to come to school to learn or work or check on their child. Still, in every classroom and building - and likely in your own household - the recent tragic events in Florida have heightened all our concerns about school safety.


For us to be **SAFER TOGETHER**, we are enlisting the help of all students, families, staff, caring adults, and community partners. We want you to know that:

- **Columbus City Schools has a Zero Tolerance policy on possession of a weapon.** Students will face disciplinary actions, including the potential of suspension or expulsion, if found to be in possession of any item deemed potentially dangerous to themselves or others in a school environment.
- The consequences of having a weapon outside of school can be even more extreme. Whether in the neighborhood or at home, young people need to understand the dangers of having a gun, taser, or other type of weapon. **We need families to have thoughtful conversations about gun violence.** That includes warnings about posting comments or pictures about guns or violence on social media accounts.
- **Safety is a very serious matter.** All threats to school safety are taken seriously, whether they are made on social media, in a crowd, by phone or note, or even as a joke. Columbus Police and our Safety & Security teams are immediately investigating every threat we are made aware of and swiftly addressing those who make the threats. Students need to know they will be held accountable, even if the threat they made wasn't real.
- **Safety awareness has been heightened in every CCS building as a precaution.** Teachers and principals in all schools are taking time to talk with students about the importance of safety. A greater security presence has also been added to many of our buildings. Visitors are likely to experience additional scrutiny before being allowed to enter buildings.
- If you **See Something, Say Something.** One of this District's greatest safety resources is the trusting relationships that have been built between our students, families, staff, and safety teams. This is more than reporting weapons or fights; it's encouraging students to speak up anytime they see another student who is out-of-sorts or chronically alone.
- We encourage anyone connected to Columbus City Schools to "See Something, Say Something" by calling or texting our anonymous hotline **844-SAFER-OH** if you are aware of a potential danger to one of our students or our schools.

Safety is a fundamental priority in all that we do in Columbus City Schools. Our principals and safety teams will continue to provide updates whenever safety concerns might impact the learning environment in our buildings. We thank you for continuing to support their work and our school community. We are truly Safer Together!

SPEAK UP
SAVE LIVES

TEXT or CALL:
844-SAFEROH
844-723-3464

 **COLUMBUS
CITY SCHOOLS**
#SAFERTOGETHER