



Lago Vista ISD Safety & Security

Lago Vista ISD is committed to providing a safe and secure learning environment for our students and staff. We know students who feel safe at school are able to reach their full potential both academically and socially. We also know that staff members are most effective at doing their jobs when they feel safe and secure.

While our focus is on preventing and mitigating as many issues as we can, we also want our students and staff to be prepared to respond in case an emergency situation arises. We rely on both internal strategies and external programs to support the safety and security of our students and staff, as well as activities that allow the district to be prepared for a host of different emergency situations that our campuses and facilities may face.

Lago Vista ISD follows the guidance of the Texas Schools Safety Center (TxSSC) located at Texas State University. The TxSSC serves as a clearinghouse for the dissemination of safety and security information through research, training, technical assistance for K-12 schools and junior colleges throughout the state of Texas.

As legislation and conditions change, Lago Vista ISD will continue to learn and evaluate the safety and security of our schools. As we continue to strengthen our practices, we are grateful for the understanding of our parents and community as changes or additions to current practices may be necessary in order to ensure our students and staff are provided the safe and secure learning environments they deserve.

To learn more about the current safety measures utilized in Lago Vista ISD, please see below for an outline of our safety and security strategies and programs.

Prevention/Mitigation Measures

These measures are intended to prevent, avoid, stop, and/or lessen the impact of safety threats and hazards within Lago Vista ISD.

Safety and Security Audits

Regular school district safety and security audits are completed in accordance with the requirements outlined in Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. These audits are conducted with the goal of continuously identifying areas for improvement and identifying hazards, threats, and vulnerabilities that might pose a danger to life or property or may interfere with a safe, secure and healthy environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.

Lago Vista ISD reports specific audit results to the Texas School Safety Center (TxSSC), as required.

Raptor Visitor Management System

Lago Vista ISD utilized the Raptor Visitor Management System at each campus. This system eliminates uncertainty and helps schools know precisely who is on campus. By scanning their ID, each visitor's information is screened against the sex offender registry and custom databases, including those with custody orders and banned visitor status. The system instantly alerts school officials if a visitor is flagged as a security risk. Visitor management systems automatically capture and store visitor data, enabling schools to create security-focused reports for analytical and investigative purposes.

To learn more about the Raptor Visitor Management System, please visit <https://raptortech.com/protect-your-school/raptor-visitor-management-system/>.

Active Monitoring by First Responders

Lago Vista ISD has partnered with our local first responders to assist with the active monitoring of safety throughout the District. All Lago Vistas ISD two-way radio channels are actively monitored by Travis County ESD #1. The Lago Vista Police Department has secure access to the centralized management system for the Lago Vista ISD security camera system and provides active monitoring of live feeds, as appropriate. The Lago Vista Police Department is also providing increased patrols and campus walkthroughs at each campus in the District. We are grateful for our continued partnership with the city and our local law enforcement and their efforts towards ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors.

High School Security Attendant

Lago Vista High School has a campus security attendant on staff to patrol the campus perimeter, lunch areas, hallways, restrooms, and parking lots in order to maintain general order and to ensure the safety and security of students, staff, visitors and property. Additionally, the campus security attendant monitors grounds and buildings for signs of unauthorized persons and aids in the enforcement of District security policies and procedures.

Bark for Schools Content Monitoring

Lago Vista ISD utilizes Bark for Schools, which was developed as a response to the tragic Parkland shooting as a way to help schools protect students online. Available at no cost to all K-12 schools across the United States, Bark for Schools provides content monitoring for Microsoft 365 and Google Workspace, including Chrome, Chromebook, and DNS filtering. Bark for Schools provides Lago Vista ISD with monitoring services to scan emails, chats, and files for signs of serious issues like suicidal ideation, threats of violence, bullying, and more.

To learn more about Bark for Schools Content monitoring services, please visit <https://www.bark.us/schools>.

StayALERT Anonymous Reporting System

Lago Vista ISD uses StayALERT to help keep our schools safe. StayALERT is a bilingual, confidential website, e-mail, phone and texting avenue for students, teachers, staff, parents and community members to be able to confidentially report unsafe behaviors, suspicious activities, bullying, acts of violence, harassment, and a host of other potential disruptors to school safety.

Users may anonymously report concerns 24-7-365 via the StayALERT website, an email, a phone call to a recorded and monitored line, or via a text message from a cell phone. Photos and video clips pertaining to the StayALERT report may be included. No special app required! Reportable information will be forwarded in a timely manner to a pre-designated District-level official for review.

To make a report, use one of the methods below:

- Website:** stayalert.info
Call or Text: (206) 406-6485
Email: report@stayalert.info
App: Available on all student devices

Campus Threat Assessment Teams

In accordance with Texas law and the training from the Texas School Safety Center, each campus in Lago Vista ISD has established a threat assessment team to address any behavior or communication that raises concern that a person or situation may pose a danger to the safety of the school, campus, or workplace. The purpose of a threat assessment team is to provide a means to identify, assess, and manage individuals who are at risk for violence against themselves or others. An effective, functioning threat assessment team is a critical component of keeping our schools safe and preventing violence.

State-of-the Art Security Cameras with Centralized Management

Lago Vista ISD has made significant upgrades in the area of security by replacing obsolete equipment with high performance security cameras. All facilities have high resolution security cameras positioned strategically to provide broad coverage. A centralized management platform provides a dashboard that features footage from across the District in a single location with secure access granted to local law enforcement. The District's upgraded camera system also includes proactive security alerts and advanced search filters.

Security footage is monitored and may only be viewed by authorized District personnel and law enforcement.

WatchDOGS Program

Lago Vista Elementary School is proud to offer the WatchDOGS program. WatchDOGS (Dads Of Great Students) is an innovative educational initiative to promote father involvement in schools. There are two primary goals of the WatchDOGS program.

- To provide positive male role models for the students, demonstrating by their presence that education is important.
- To provide extra sets of eyes and ears to enhance school security and reduce bullying.

WatchDOGS are fathers, grandfathers, uncles, and other father-figures who volunteer during the day at Lago Vista Elementary School. WatchDOGS may read and work on flash cards with students, play at recess, eat lunch with students, watch the school entrances and hallways, assist with traffic flow, and any other assigned activities where they actively engage with students.

For more information on the WatchDOGS program, please visit <https://dadsofgreatstudents.com/>.

Safety and Security Committee

In an effort to create a safe school climate and culture, and a collaborative environment around school safety, Lago Vista ISD has established a District safety and security committee. This committee, which is made up of district staff, campus staff, community partners, and parents, provides advice and guidance to the District on many areas related to safety and security, including emergency planning, drills, training, and safety assessments.

While the majority of our attention is spent on preventing incidents from happening, we know we must also be prepared to respond in any emergency situation. Staff and student training and drills, policies that regulate access to facilities and a close working relationship with our first responding agencies are elements of a layered, collaborative approach to safety that we implement on a daily basis.

The Lago Vista ISD Safety and Security committee meets regularly throughout the school year and summer to review various topics related to school safety and security.

House Bill 3 Plans for Required Armed Security

The Texas legislature passed House Bill 3 (HB 3) during the 88th Regular Legislative Session which requires a minimum of one armed security officer during school hours at District campuses. The new statute states that an armed security officer must be: (1) a school district peace officer (only available if the District has its own police department); (2) a school resource officer; or (3) a commissioned peace officer employed as security personnel. Lago Vista ISD committed to evolving to meet the safety needs of students and staff and is currently exploring how best to comply with new requirements resulting from the passage of HB 3.

The new law allows a school board to claim a good cause exception and identify an alternative standard if lack of funding or availability of personnel makes complying with House Bill 3 impossible. Currently, both are true - there is inadequate funding to fund all of the required positions and there is a shortage of available personnel who qualify to serve as an armed security officer under Section 37.0814(a). As such, on August 31, 2023, the Lago Vista ISD Board of Trustees voted to claim a good cause exception due to a lack of adequate funding and qualified personnel.

School Resource Officer Program Development

As a priority step, the District is currently working with the City of Lago Vista and the Lago Vista Police Department to develop and approve an agreement to provide a school resource officer in the 2023-2024 school year, with the intent of additional SROs added in subsequent years until full compliance with HB 3 is met.

Investigation of Other Allowable Options

In addition to working to establish a school resource officer program with the City of Lago Vista, the District is also evaluating the other allowable alternatives that satisfy exceptions to the requirements of HB 3. Options under consideration include armed security guardians, employee guardians, and contracting with a security services contractor to provide commissioned security officers as defined by Texas Occupations Code section 1702.322.