FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FPS Safety Task Force
March 11, 2026

Google Meeting Link: meet.google.com/dxq-yeki-fcs

FPS Theory of Action

The FPS Task Force is an open committee comprised of parents, faculty, police/fire/city government, faculty, administration, students, and community members. The committee addresses the following objective: *To share ideas, input, and expertise to ensure that the Fitchburg Public Schools' students, staff, and visitors are safe physically and emotionally in all aspects of the school experience (classrooms, common areas, fields, buses, etc.).*

El grupo de trabajo de FPS es un comité abierto compuesto por padres, profesores, policía/bomberos/gobierno de la ciudad, profesores, administración, estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad. El comité se reunió el 4 de octubre y el 16 de noviembre en Memorial MS para abordar el siguiente objetivo:
Compartir ideas, aportes y experiencia para garantizar que los estudiantes, el personal y los visitantes de las Escuelas Públicas de Fitchburg estén seguros física y emocionalmente en todos los aspectos de la experiencia escolar (aulas, áreas comunes, campos, autobuses, etc.).

Agenda - 5:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

- Introductions
- Updates: Weapons Detector/Emergency Response Plan/Reunification Training/Process - Updates
- Safety Survey Results - Spring '25 and Winter '26
- Panel Discussion
  - Questions/Concerns/Topics

The FPS has purchased a CEIA Open Gate system which will be available for large functions starting spring 2026.

Video Overview

CEIA OPENGATE Weapons Detection System with WIFI LTE Board

★★★★★ (0) | Write a review

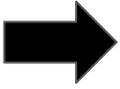# Emergency Response Plan (and flip chart)

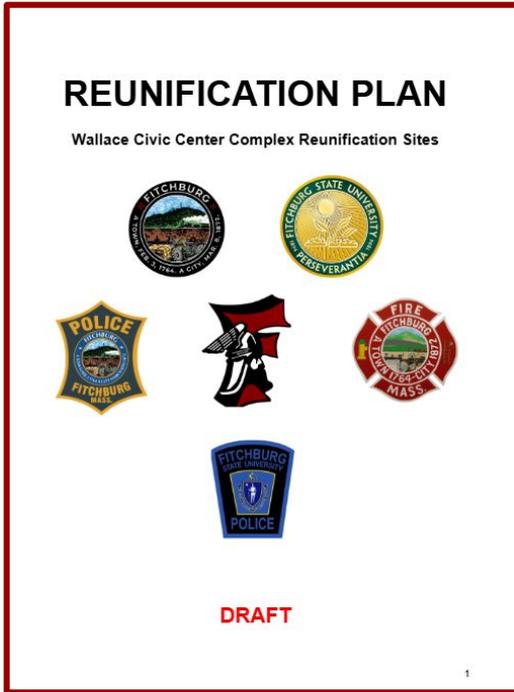The FPS Emergency Response Plan has been finalized and the desktop flip charts are in production.

FITCHBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS MANUAL

Reunification A Collaborative Effort

REUNIFICATION PLAN

Wallace Civic Center Complex Reunification Sites

DRAFT

1. **Notification:** Parents are notified of the incident and the reunification site location.
2. **Arrival:** Parents arrive at the site and are greeted by a Greeter who explains the process and provides forms.
3. **Check-in:** Parents fill out a Reunification Card and give it to a Checker, who verifies their ID and processes the card. The Checker returns the bottom part of the card to the parent.
4. **Assembly:** Students are kept in a separate Student Assembly Area out of sight from the media and parents, where they are managed by staff.
5. **Reunification:** The Reunifier takes the bottom of the card to the assembly area, retrieves the student, and escorts them to the parent.
6. **Exit:** The student and parent leave the controlled area together after the student confirms they are okay to go.

Civic Center Complex - (1000 John Fitch Highway)

- If students and staff from a school site need to be relocated, they will be transported to the Wallace Civic Center/Landry Arena.
- FPD, FFD, FSUPD, FSU volunteers, and FPS staff will help to coordinate a controlled reunification with parents/families/guardians.
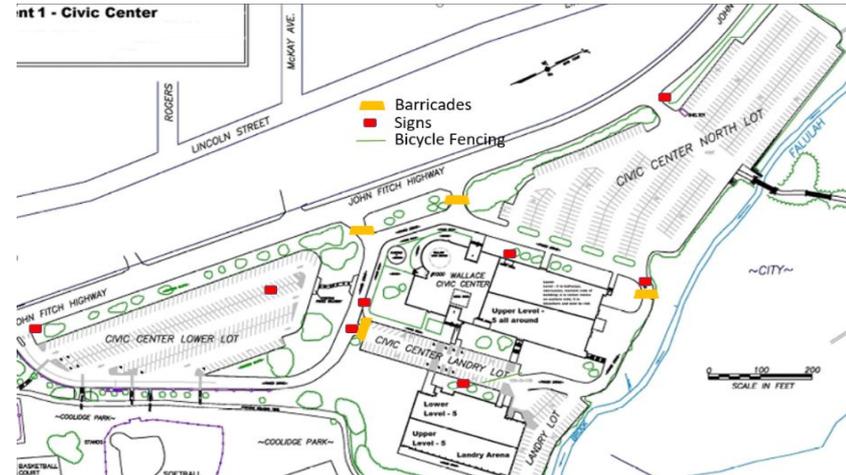
Panorama Survey Results - Parents/Staff

The results show important questions related to school safety and climate with comparison to last year's survey results.

Teachers (349 responses - Feb/March 2026)

Question	Question score	Change since time last surveyed
How safe and orderly is my school? 349 responses	77%	—

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses
● Very safe and orderly	**9%** (33)
● Safe and orderly	**26%** (90)
● Somewhat safe and orderly	**42%** (146)
● Unsafe and disorderly	**16%** (55)
● Very unsafe and disorderly	**7%** (25)

PANORAMA
EDUCATION

Teachers (337 responses - Spring 2025)

My school/ site is safe and orderly.
337 responses

41%

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses	
● 5 (very safe and orderly)	**12%**	(39)
● 4	**29%**	(98)
● 3 (somewhat safe and orderly)	**36%**	(121)
● 2	**15%**	(49)
● 1 (not safe and orderly)	**9%**	(30)

Teachers (355 responses - Feb/March 2026)

How respectful are the relationships between teachers and students?
355 responses

48%
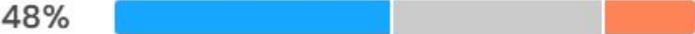
Answer distribution

Answer		Responses
● Extremely respectful	**8%**	(30)
● Quite respectful	**40%**	(141)
● Somewhat respectful	**36%**	(128)
● Slightly respectful	**12%**	(43)
● Not at all respectful	**4%**	(13)

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Teachers (336 responses - Spring 2025)

How respectful are the relationships between teachers and students?

336 responses

54%

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses	
● Extremely respectful	**7%**	(23)
● Quite respectful	**47%**	(159)
● Somewhat respectful	**30%**	(102)
● Slightly respectful	**12%**	(40)
● Not at all respectful	**4%**	(12)

Parents/Families (845 responses - Feb/March 2026)

Question	Question score	Change since time last surveyed

Overall, how unsafe does your child feel at school?

845 responses

83%

Answer distribution
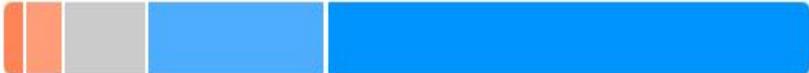
Answer	Responses	
● Extremely unsafe	**2%**	(20)
● Quite unsafe	**4%**	(37)
● Somewhat unsafe	**10%**	(85)
● Slightly unsafe	**22%**	(187)
● Not at all unsafe	**61%**	(516)

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Parents/Families (419 responses - Spring 2025)

Overall, how unsafe does your child feel at school?

419 responses

80%

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses	
● Extremely unsafe	3%	(12)
● Quite unsafe	6%	(24)
● Somewhat unsafe	11%	(46)
● Slightly unsafe	20%	(85)
● Not at all unsafe	60%	(252)

Parents/Families (848 responses - Feb/March 2026)

How often do you worry about violence at your child's school?

848 responses

46%

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses	
● Almost always	**12%**	(98)
● Frequently	**17%**	(140)
● Sometimes	**26%**	(219)
● Once in a while	**19%**	(158)
● Almost never	**27%**	(233)

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Parents/Families (422 responses - Spring 2025)

How often do you worry about violence at your child's school?

422 responses

51%

Answer distribution

Answer	Responses
● Almost always	**12%** (49)
● Frequently	**14%** (58)
● Sometimes	**23%** (99)
● Once in a while	**24%** (101)
● Almost never	**27%** (115)

PANORAMA
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What do you feel would improve safety at your child's school?
(Parent/Families, 255 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

What do you feel would improve safety at your child's school?
(Parent/Families, 255 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

1. Security Measures	2. Bullying & Violence Prevention	3. Communication & Community	4. Positive School Culture & Emotional Safety	5. Logistics & Operations	6. Positive Feedback
Police officers and security staff present at all times. Metal detectors and controlled access at entrances. Surveillance cameras and locked doors. Better supervision in hallways and bathrooms.	Zero tolerance for fighting and bullying. Stronger consequences and removal of violent students. Education on respect, body safety, and conflict resolution. Encouraging reporting and parent involvement.	Better communication between staff, parents, and students. Listening to concerns, especially for special needs children. Involving families in safety and school policies.	Promote respect, empathy, and social-emotional learning. Provide mental health support and safe spaces. Staff modeling respectful behavior.	More bus availability and safe routes. Smaller classes and more staff for supervision. Clear rules on phone use and attendance.	Praise for current safety efforts like locked doors and police presence. Many feel the school is safe and well-managed.

What do you feel would improve safety at your school?
(Teachers, 228 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

What do you feel would improve safety at your school?
(Teachers, 228 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

1. Safety & Behavior Management	2. Staffing & Support	3. Physical Security & Environment	4. Student Support & School Culture	5. Communication & Accountability	6. Additional Suggestions
Stronger enforcement of rules and consistent consequences for misbehavior. Zero tolerance for fighting, violence, and drug use; removal or alternative placement for disruptive students. Increased admin presence and hall monitoring during transitions. Ban or restrict cell phone use to reduce distractions and disruptions. Clear behavior expectations communicated and consistently applied.	More security staff, hall monitors, behavioral techs, and counselors for supervision and support. Training for staff in de-escalation and crisis intervention. Better admin support for teachers managing challenging behaviors.	Secure entrances with ID checks, locked doors, and visitor badges. Improve building safety (working elevators, secure doors, fences around playgrounds). Better cleaning and maintenance of facilities (bathrooms, hallways).	Proactive social-emotional learning (SEL) and restorative practices. More mental health resources and individualized counseling. Building community, respect, empathy, and belonging among students.	Better communication between administration, staff, parents, and students. Hold both students and parents accountable for attendance and behavior. Consistent follow-through on disciplinary actions.	Use of alternative settings or second locations for students with severe behavior issues. More structured schedules and supervision to prevent roaming halls. Safe, calm environments through better routines and expectations enforcement.

What issues or questions would you like the district and/or the Safety Task Force to address?
(Parent/Families, 195 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

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(Parent/Families, 195 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)

Bullying and Student Behavior
 This was the most frequently mentioned concern, with many comments about bullying, fights, aggression, and the need for consistent enforcement of rules and consequences.

Safety and Security
 Strong focus on improving school security measures like locked doors, visitor verification, cameras, hall monitoring, and having resource officers.

Mental Health and Support Services
 Repeated calls for better mental health resources, counseling, social-emotional learning, and support for special needs students.

What issues or questions would you like the district and/or the Safety Task Force to address?
(Teachers, 169 Responses, Feb/March, 2026)
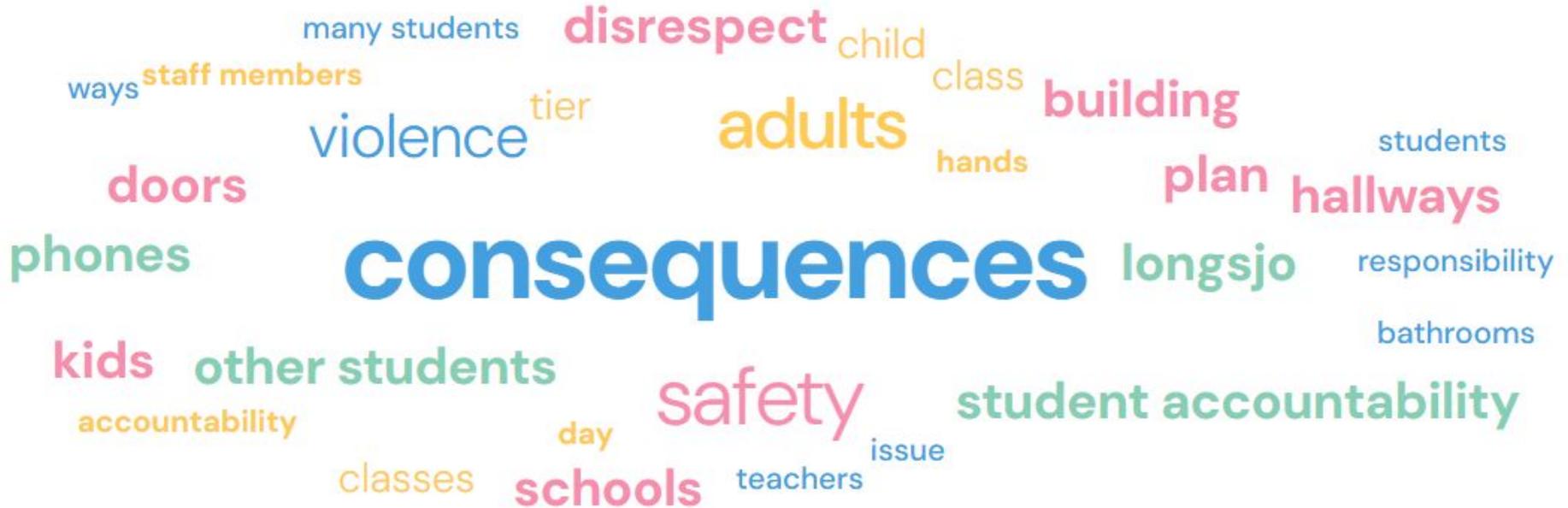
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Student Behavior & Accountability

Staff are concerned about **increasing disruptive and aggressive student behavior** and feel there is a **lack of consistent consequences and enforcement of rules** (e.g., phones, fighting, disrespect).

School Safety & Security

Concerns include **building safety issues**, such as door locks, visitor access, camera coverage, and the need for **more security presence and clearer safety procedures**.

Staffing & Support

Staff report a need for **more personnel, training, and behavioral supports** to safely manage student needs and maintain a positive learning environment.

Physical Security & Monitoring

516 operating security cameras throughout and around the **8** school buildings.

154 door access/badge entries (**220** exterior door sets).

38 vape detection units in middle & high school student bathrooms.

10 security monitors in middle & high schools ensuring secure buildings and quick response.

Personnel & Support

3 full-time Fitchburg Police Dept. School Resource Officers:
- FHS and Goodrich
- Memorial, Reingold, McKay
- Longsjo, Crocker, South Street

51 school counselors, clinical interventionists, adjustment counselors for social emotional needs.

Each school has a **Home Liaison** for family welcome, support, and safety function.

Questions and Discussion

Community & Student Representatives

- Jon Cross - Parent & Security Consultant
- Lyndsay Radzewicz - Parent
- Addisyn Radzewicz - Student
- Matthew Lamey - FHS Principal
- Sean Walker - Memorial MS Principal
- Jacqueline Lessard - Director of Nursing/School Health Services
- Brendan Keenan - Director of Social Emotional Learning
- Antonio Pennetti - Fitchburg School Resource Officer, FHS

School District Staff

- Matthew Lamey - FHS Principal
- Sean Walker - Memorial MS Principal
- Antonio Pennetti - Fitchburg Leanning

Parent Questions:

Security Measures
Parents/Families suggested measures like metal detectors, security staff, and police presence. From your experience, which security measures are most effective for keeping schools safe?

Bullying & Behavior
Bullying, fighting, and disruptive behavior were common concerns in the parent/family survey. What strategies work best to prevent these issues and maintain a safe school environment?
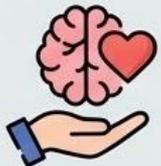
Mental Health Supports
What type of mental health supports are available to students/families?

Visitor Access & Supervision
Parents/Families also raised questions about visitor access and supervision during arrival and dismissal. What are some best practices schools can use to keep buildings secure while staying welcoming to families?

Role of School Resource Officer
What is the role of a School Resource Officer?

Staff: Panel Questions

How can the school ensure that all students are provided supports and that behavioral expectations and consequences are consistent across all staff and administrative levels?

What systems or staffing changes are needed to improve student supervision—particularly in hallways, bathrooms, and during transitions—to reduce unsafe behavior and class skipping?
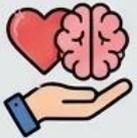
How can the school strengthen both preventative supports (SEL, counseling, behavior interventions) and security measures to better address student behavioral and safety needs?

Next Meeting/Upcoming Events

Next Safety Task Force Meeting: April/May 2026

Location - TBD

Jeremy Roche, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations - rochej@fitchburg.k12.ma.us

Brendan Keenan - Director of Social Emotional Learning - keenanb@fitchburg.k12.ma.us

FPS Theory of Action

IF all staff, families, and community partners work together, **THEN** every student will grow and achieve.