



Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Richard Rogers

Board Members

Dr. Rick Unruh, Chair

Dave Crockett, Vice Chair

Angel Brown

Mark Ivory

Clyde Jackson, Jr.

Lori Johnson

Jon Nichols

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 20, 2026

Release #2026/27 – 004

Contact: Jennifer C. Jones, Director of Community & School Affairs, (478) 988-6390, Jennifer.C.Jones@hcbe.net

Houston County School District Announces Plans for Additional Safety Measures at All Middle and High Schools

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – The Houston County School District announced today that it is moving forward with plans to purchase metal detection systems as part of continued efforts to strengthen safety and security across the District. The metal detectors will be used at all middle and high schools, as well as stadiums and competition gyms. The District anticipates delivery within approximately four to eight weeks and will use that time to develop procedures, determine placement, and prepare for implementation.

As part of its ongoing review of school safety measures, District leaders spoke with schools where the systems are currently in use and discussed their implementation, including how they incorporated the additional security measure into daily school operations.

“Our responsibility is to continually evaluate how we can strengthen safety for our students and staff,” said Superintendent Dr. Richard Rogers. “We have listened to the questions and concerns of our families, employees, and community, and we believe adding metal detectors is an important next step. As we add this layer of security, we will also prioritize a welcoming, positive learning environment for every student.”

The District also plans to add a security guard at each middle school, high school, and the Houston College & Career Academy. These employees will assist with operating the metal detector at each school’s main entrance and provide an additional layer of security and support throughout the school day. The district plans to begin hiring for these positions in September.

The addition of metal detectors and security guards will build upon safety measures already in place throughout the District, including School Resource Officers, controlled access, security cameras, emergency alert technology, staff training, and established emergency response procedures. The District will also continue to evaluate school campuses to identify areas where additional fencing or access-control measures may be needed to further strengthen campus security.

More

HCSD District Announces Plans for Additional Safety Measures / Page 2 of 2

“There is still important work ahead as we determine exactly how these measures will be implemented at each school,” Rogers said. “We want to be thoughtful about that process. Our goal is to strengthen security while continuing to make our schools places where students feel welcomed, supported, and ready to learn.”

The District will use available funds to make these safety investments within the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. The cost of these additional safety measures will not result in an increase to the millage rate. The Board of Education previously approved a full rollback of the District’s millage rate for the 2026 tax year, and that rate will remain unchanged.

Additional information about implementation will be shared with families and employees as plans are finalized.

#

