



# 2024-25 ENHANCED SAFETY PLAN



## ADVANCED WEAPON DETECTION SCREENING

Ten times faster than traditional metal detectors, advanced weapon detection screening systems allow students to move through security at a regular pace without having to empty their pockets. If a weapon or questionable item is detected, that item is noted on a video monitor so administrators can identify and search that particular student. These systems also employ facial recognition software, which would alert us if someone comes on campus who should not be there. MCPSS has begun installing these at middle and high schools.



## CELL PHONE POLICY

With cell phones becoming increasingly distracting in the classroom, MCPSS will enforce its existing policy that prohibits students from using cell phones, ear buds, and smart watches during class. Schools may issue students Yondr pouches (left) to store their phones during the day; or, phones may be locked safely in a box (right) in the morning and returned at the end of the day. We piloted these programs at two middle schools this past school year, and noticed a remarkable improvement in student grades and academic performance, as well as a decrease in disciplinary problems. Your school will provide additional details soon.



## CLEAR BACKPACKS

Beginning with the **2025-2026** school year, clear backpacks will be required at all schools. MCPSS will provide clear bags to students next year, free of charge.



## HALO VAPE DETECTION



With teenage vaping becoming an increasing concern nationwide, MCPSS will begin installing vape detection devices in middle and high school restrooms and other areas as deemed necessary.



## HOODIES

Hoodies will not be allowed this school year. Your school will provide more information.

## EXISTING SECURITY MEASURES

The safety of our students and employees is our top priority. That is why we continuously research and enhance our districtwide security plan. Here are some of the existing protections that we will continue:

- **Crisis Alert System:** All 90 schools have the Crisis Alert System, allowing them to immediately go into lock-down or to secure the perimeter if there is an on-campus emergency. With the touch of a button, a teacher or administrator can alert all students and staff. Depending on the situation, doors can be locked, or an evacuation ordered. Law enforcement is called.
- **School Safety Plans:** All 90 schools have a Safety Plan that is in use and on file with the Alabama Department of Education and local law enforcement.
- **Resource Officers:** MCPSS employs 14 former law enforcement officers who work daily in our schools.
- **Sheriff's Deputies:** MCPSS will continue to provide funding for at least one Mobile County Sheriff's Office deputy to work daily in each of our 12 feeder patterns.
- **Random Canine Searches:** MCPSS conducts random canine searches in our middle and high schools. The most common forbidden items that we find are vapes.
- **Emergency Drills:** Students and staff practice tornado and fire drills to know how to respond during an emergency. They also train for "Run. Hide. Fight." in case there is ever an intruder.
- **Access Control:** Visitor access is limited on our campuses through door locks and cameras. We also utilize the Raptor system, which runs background checks on visitors.
- **Security Cameras:** Every school has a state-of-the-art video surveillance system that can be accessed by law enforcement during an emergency.
- **LearnSafe:** All MCPSS-issued electronic devices and all devices used on our network are monitored for safety concerns, including any intentions of self-harm.
- **One Voice Matters:** Students can anonymously report threats by texting "OVMcps" to 444999.
- **Mental Health Services:** Recognizing the increasing need for mental health support, MCPSS has hired additional counselors and contracted with outside agencies to provide services. We encourage students and parents to reach out to us if you need help.
- **Social Media Threats:** MCPSS works closely with law enforcement, including the Gulf Coast Technology Center, to quickly solve cases involving social media threats. Remember: "If you see something, say something."