



**Birmingham City Schools**  
Believe. Create. Succeed.

February 23, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Stakeholders:

The Birmingham City Schools system, like school systems around the nation, remains shocked by the horrific school shooting in Florida last week. However, we are even more committed to ensuring staff and student safety as we intentionally reflect on and review our safety plans and practices.

In Birmingham City Schools, we have a number of safety procedures and protocols in place. Here is what we are doing to keep our staff and students safe:

- We are working with police and our BCS security department to ensure increased presence and visibility around schools, and have School Resources Officers in all high schools.
- We ensure that all outside doors to facilities are locked or access-controlled; and, utilize cameras in all schools and metal detectors and wands in our high schools, as a deterrent.
- We have an anonymous tip line where students or community members can report threats without revealing their identity by calling 1-877-250-2830.
- We encourage all students and staff to report suspicious activity. "If you see something, say something."
- Schools participate in safety drills including lockdown, shelter-in-place and fire evacuation numerous times throughout the year.
- We have school counselors and social workers available to provide support to students who may have questions, fears and concerns around horrific and catastrophic events.
- System-wide, we are currently reviewing all school safety plans to identify where they can be enhanced and improved.

Safety and security is a 24/7 job, and it will take all of us being mindful of our surroundings, vigilant in monitoring our environment and courageous in speaking out against threats of violence. We are grateful for your support as we stand together for school safety.

Yours in service,



Dr. Lisa N. Herring, Superintendent