



Safety Measures

School is the last place where kids should have to worry about gun violence. In Elkin City Schools the safety of our kids is our number one priority. Being proactive is important to us. These are the eight (8) safety measures and strategies already in place on our school campuses:

1. Exterior Doors are always locked. During the school day, students and staff have access using an electronic name badge.
2. School Resource Officers are located at the elementary school and at the middle/high school.
3. Practice Lockdown Drills take place yearly.
4. Active Shooter Drills take place periodically as determined by the Elkin Police Department. These do not occur while students are on campus.
5. Emergency Drills (fire drills, tornado drills) are practiced and reviewed on a regular basis.
6. Say Something App - This app can be used by students, parents and teachers. It is available under the STUDENT TAB on all school websites. Any adult can download the app for free on their smartphone or access it online at <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/say-something-anonymous-reporting-system/>
7. The Code of Conduct is located within the student handbooks and can be viewed on all the schools' websites under the STUDENT OR FAMILY ENGAGEMENT TAB. It is included below for your viewing:

Students are prohibited from possessing, handling, using or transmitting any weapon or any instrument that reasonably looks like a weapon or could be used as a weapon on school campus at any time or while attending, or taking part in any school sponsored event. Weapons include but are not limited to the following: loaded and unloaded firearms, air rifles and BB guns, destructive devices, knives including pocket knives, razor blades, fireworks, any type of ammunition. Any student who has reason to believe another student is in possession of a weapon on school campus should report that student to a teacher, administrator, or SRO.

8. Elkin City Schools policy on WEAPONS, BOMB THREATS, TERRORIST THREATS, AND CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY was Issued: September 24, 1999; Adopted: August 22, 2011; Revised: June 19, 2014; September 23, 2019; and, December 7, 2020. The policy reviews Weapons and Weapon-Like Items, General Consequences and Specific Consequences Mandated by Law. Please click the link below to read the policy details.

WEAPONS
[\(Refer to Policy 4333\)](#)

9. Rave Panic Button is a smartphone mobile app. The Elkin City Schools Tech Team is in the process of uploading data. With the push of a button, the Rave Panic Button app immediately dials 9-1-1, while simultaneously sending notifications to people on site of the incident for a faster and more effective emergency response. This app will be available to all staff within the next couple of weeks.

Safety Measure on the horizon:

1. Elkin City Schools is currently in the process of seeking funding for metal detectors for all schools. If you as an individual or an organization or business would like to make a donation, please contact the central office.

The Elkin City Schools administrators have procedures in place for real-life emergencies. It begins by calling 9-1-1 or the local police department, depending on the circumstances. Next, communication begins and continues between the school incurring the incident, the central office/superintendent and law enforcement. The school superintendent works with law enforcement to investigate. Messages via ConnectEd or social media are sent as soon as informational facts are gathered and law enforcement determines the amount of information that can be released. In the case of an underage student involved in any of the following: **WEAPONS, BOMB THREATS, TERRORIST THREATS, AND CLEAR THREATS TO SAFETY**, the police department determines the legal actions to be taken. The School Board Policy 4333 determines actions taken by the school system. School systems cannot release any information concerning a minor.

Even though these measures, strategies and policies are in place, there is more that can be done between schools and parents to foster safe and nurturing schools. Captain Joshua Tulbert of the Elkin Police Department provided this information:

On Saturday at the Pumpkin Festival, a newly formed collection of local citizens interested in affecting change locally and nationally in regards to gun violence will be set up in a lot across from the Reeves Theatre. They have teamed up with Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action and will be utilizing their “Be Smart” campaign to **give away cable gun locks and promote general gun safety**. Literature on gun safety will also be available. Their efforts will rally around “Harm Reduction.” Their efforts at the Festival have the sole goal of trying to make the Elkin community safer.

The Elkin Elementary School Resource Officer, Traci Ballance, will be at the festival and in attendance at the booth during the event. Officer Ballance speaks fluent Spanish and will be available to assist Spanish speaking attendees.

Parents are encouraged to stop by their site to receive free literature on gun safety and a free gun lock.

In addition, Captain Tulbert shared NC Legislation of the storage of firearms to protect minors.

§ 14-315.1. NC Legislation: Storage of firearms to protect minors.

- (a) Any person who resides in the same premises as a minor, owns or possesses a firearm, and stores or leaves the firearm (i) in a condition that the firearm can be discharged and (ii) in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor if a minor gains access to the firearm without the lawful permission of the minor's parents or a person having charge of the minor and the minor:
- (1) Possesses it in violation of G.S. 14-269.2(b);
 - (2) Exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening manner;
 - (3) Causes personal injury or death with it not in self defense; or
 - (4) Uses it in the commission of a crime.
- (b) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a person from carrying a firearm on his or her body, or placed in such close proximity that it can be used as easily and quickly as if carried on the body.
- (c) This section shall not apply if the minor obtained the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry by any person.
- (d) "Minor" as used in this section means a person under 18 years of age who is not emancipated. (1993, c. 558, s. 2; 1994, Ex. Sess., c. 14, s. 11.)

In conclusion, being prepared to quickly respond to and neutralize any threat is our goal. We ask that our parents and community support and engage in our efforts to keep our children safe. Please talk with your child about gun (and other weapons) safety, and please secure all weapons out of the reach of your child.