

School Safety Plan (School Year 2023–24)

ECHS prides itself on providing a safe, orderly learning environment and has developed a Board approved Comprehensive School Safety Plan as required by state law that is updated annually, most recently in the fall of 2023. ECHS provides a secure campus to ensure student safety before, during, and after the school day. Fire drills are held at least twice each school year, and lock-down drills are held at least once each school year. ECHS has an Emergency Procedures manual that details protocols in emergency situations including building evacuation, lock-down, and building containment. All classrooms are equipped to receive intercom instructions from the main office in case of an emergency, and personnel have been trained on protocols and procedures to follow. To facilitate rapid communication, the school continues to emphasize the use of walkie-talkies between administrators and support staff. Access to student and staff parking lots is controlled via electronic security gates. Both the ECHS Flex and main campus are equipped with emergency "panic buttons" that when activated alerts first responders and restricts campus access.

Recently, the entire ECHS staff participated in two, in-person school intruder trainings hosted by Safe Schools Inc. During the training, law enforcement experts shared the potential signs of school violence that school staff should look for when working with students. They also covered the most recent science behind school safety as well as the appropriate responses to potential threats of school violence. The curriculum they presented is called the H.E.R.O. Program. The acronym stands for Hide! Escape! Run! Overcome!

Starting in January 2023, all ECHS students participate annually in a week-long safety training called H.E.R.O. week. The program was designed to take approximately a week but allowed for flexibility in how each school delivered the curriculum. During the training, students learned important safe-thinking skills associated with the protective responses of hide, escape, run, and overcome. Each day of H.E.R.O. training involved a thirty-minute daily lesson where students learned safe-thinking skills and personal empowerment strategies through age-appropriate activities, stories, and classroom discussions. Once the students were prepared in this non-threatening manner, the school participated in school-wide safety drills that surpassed the safety standards required by state and local officials.

Last updated: 1/25/24

