



Cedar Vale Schools, USD 285

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August 13, 2018

USD 285 Patrons,

The 2018 Kansas Legislature enacted House Substitute for Senate Bill 109 creating the Kansas Safe and Secure Schools Act. The act provided five million dollars in matching grant funds for districts across the state to improve school safety. Kansas school districts requested fifteen million dollars in aid to improve school safety.

The Kansas State Board of Education created a tentative list of standards to help guide the distribution of funds. The tentative standards are to be used as guidelines for school safety improvements.

- School districts shall ensure that the infrastructure of school buildings and/or attendance centers operated by the district are safe and secure which includes secure entrances, enhancing the safety of windows, or improving any facet of structural building integrity.
- School districts shall secure all doors in which students are in attendance.
- School districts shall create or improve intrusion detection systems and security camera systems.
- School districts shall provide for a communication system that allows sharing of information between the school district, law enforcement agencies as well as other emergency response teams.
- School districts shall have up to date crisis plans.
- School district shall provide training to staff on how to react in cases of emergency.

We have been very fortunate to have a board that has obligated resources to improve the safety of our students and staff. I would like to highlight the following areas of improvement to our district.

- Classroom exterior windows were modified to allow quick evacuation options in case of emergency.
- Building entrances are controlled by locking mechanisms and visitors must be recognized to gain entrance.
- Hand radios were purchased so administration can communicate directly with law enforcement.

**Superintendent
Lance L. Rhodd**

*We believe that all students shall learn in a happy,
Healthy environment and become responsible, productive
members of an ever changing society.*

**PreK - 12 Principal
Title I Director
Jackie Burdette**

- Local and neighboring law enforcement agencies have provided ALICE training for our staff and student body.
- Evacuation drills have been coordinated between law enforcement and the school district.
- Grant funded security cameras have been strategically placed throughout the district.
- Crisis team evaluates our plan for emergencies yearly.

The guidance of our board has allowed us to address a number of the tentative standards recommended by the Kansas State Board of Education. We were fortunate this year to receive a matching grant that has allowed us to install security cameras. As we move forward we will continue to strive to improve the safety of our school facilities. We would like to encourage our community members to reach out to the Keep Kansas Schools Safe Hotline to report any suspicious activity that you might become aware of.
1-877-626-8203

Thank you for your continued support of Cedar Vale Schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lance L. Rhodd". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "R".

Lance L. Rhodd
USD 285 Superintendent