



Security



Mr. Joseph Olenik
Director of School Facilities & Security

24 School Road
Weston, CT 06883

Telephone: 203-291-1496
Fax: 203-291-1420

SECURITY

School security is a partnership incorporating many parts of the school and Town organizations. The school administration, along with the Weston Police and Fire Departments, works in collaboration with school staff, parents, and security professionals to ensure a safe environment for both students and staff. After a strategic review of district security many changes were made to improve overall security. These changes included:

- Added National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) radios in all schools and central office. Investigating options in coordination with WPD to improve two way radio communications for district operations
- Upgraded the locking mechanisms around the Weston Middle School pool doors.
- Added direct phone lines to select school and central office locations to ensure immediate access for emergency reporting.
- Developed online emergency plan storage and access to ensure availability to all first responders.
- Provided National Incident Management System (NIMS) training for key staff.
- Installed electronic gates to access the rear parking lot of Weston Intermediate School.
- Installed Electronic gate in Weston High School corridor restricting academic area access during and after school events.
- Upgraded and expanded our interior camera system in each school.
- Renovated main entrance of Hurlbutt Elementary School to accommodate a new security office.
- Trimmed trees around all buildings and removal decaying trees.
- Developed on-campus reunification/evacuation procedure for each school.
- Modified the lockdown recording for Hurlbutt Elementary School to be more calming for elementary age students.
- Changed additional exterior lighting to LED to provide more light for safety and security, while using less energy.

This budget is recommending the reduction of 2.0 FTE security specialists. These reductions would allow for the same security coverage per sq. foot at each of our four schools, approximately one guard per 95,000 sq. feet. We would have 2.0 FTE security specialists at both WHS and WMS, and 1.0 FTE security specialist at WIS and HES. We are confident that this difficult decision is correct, in part based on the improvements in our physical buildings, as well as improvements in our training. The significant improvement in our interior cameras allow for greater coverage of our buildings without the necessity of the additional staff. The security specialist team is well trained and veteran. It manages the safety of the buildings efficiently and in coordination with other security resources during emergencies. We have a seamless relationship with the Weston Police Department and other first-responders, which has only

improved with the arrival of a new WPD Police Chief and the creation of a Captain of the WPD. The second year of the School Resource Officer position has been a boost to coordination with the WPD on all matters related to student and staff safety.

Ancillary duties now covered by the security specialists, such as traffic monitoring and control, would be assigned as necessary to other personnel. We also would make use of the cameras and secure buzzer systems at each school to supplement the door monitoring roles of security specialists.

Even with a reduction of 2.0 FTE security specialists, Weston would remain one of the strongest staffed school systems in Fairfield County with respect to Security. With 6.0 FTE security specialists, Weston's per student investment in security would still be the highest in Fairfield County surpassing that of Westport, Darien Ridgefield, Greenwich, Newtown, Trumbull, Fairfield, Brookfield, and Monroe. Unlike nearly any area district, we would provide full-time security coverage at all four schools, including our elementary schools. Typically, area school districts provide dedicated security coverage at their middle schools and high schools, not their elementary schools.

Security
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

| <u>2017-2018 Actual</u> | | | | <u>2018-2019 Projected</u> | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <u>Operating Budget FTE</u> | <u>Other Sources FTE</u> | <u>Total FTE</u> | <u>Program</u> | <u>Operating Budget FTE</u> | <u>Other Sources FTE</u> | <u>Total FTE</u> | <u>Change</u> |
| Non Certified Staff | | | | | | | |
| 8.00 | 0.00 | 8.00 | Security Specialist | 6.00 | 0.00 | 6.00 | -2.00 |
| <u>8.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>8.00</u> | | <u>6.00</u> | <u>0.00</u> | <u>6.00</u> | <u>-2.00</u> |