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ACHS SECURITY GUARDS

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Your Name

TOPIC

Unpreparedness and unprofesionalism of ACHS Guards

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

Many students at Alexandria City High School experience unprofessional behavior from some security guards, including being on their phones while on duty, disrespectful communication, and inconsistent preparedness for emergencies. This affects thousands of students daily by creating an environment where we do not feel fully safe or respected in our own school hallways.

It undermines student trust in adults who are supposed to protect us, makes us less likely to report real safety issues, and increases stress during the school day. This matters at ACHS and in Alexandria because school should be a place where every student feels supported and secure so we can focus on learning. When security feels unreliable, it hurts the entire school climate and community.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

From my survey of 26 ACHS students: 30.8% believe security guards do not show constant professionalism. Additionally, 100% of students have seen a guard on their phone while on duty.

Goal:

Increase the percentage of students who report that security guards show constant professionalism from the current 19.2% to at least 70% within one school year through mandatory training and accountability measures.

CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

It specifically supports Goal 1: Ensure that all children, youth, and families are physically safe and healthy by improving the quality of campus security and creating environments where students feel respected and protected. Better-trained guards help build the safe, supportive school conditions that the CYCP emphasizes through youth listening sessions.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

Have you seen a security guard on their phone?

100%

Yes

No

Do you beleive security guards are unfit to handle a crisis/

66.7%

33.3%

Yes

No

Do you beleive secuity guards show constant proffesionalism

18.5%

81.5%

Yes

No

WHAT DOES THIS DATA SHOW?

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

The school has added more security officers and increased hall sweeps, but there has been no visible focus on professionalism training, phone policies, or crisis preparedness training for existing guards.

WHO CAN HELP?

They are not working well enough. While numbers of guards may have increased, the core issues of unprofessional behavior and poor preparedness remain, as clearly shown by the survey data. Students still feel disrespected and unsafe on a regular basis. This issue still needs major improvement through targeted training.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

Quantity: Limited actions have been taken.

The school has security guards present in the hallways and at entrances, and there are occasional hall sweeps and increased officer presence. However, there are no structured, mandatory training programs for professionalism, de-escalation, phone use policies, or crisis response.

Quality: The current approach is not effective. While guards help with basic tasks like directing students to class, there is little to no focus on ongoing professional development or accountability.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

No — the current actions are **not** making a meaningful difference.

Students are **not better off**.

- **80.8%** of students say security guards do **not** show constant professionalism.
- **100%** have seen guards on their phones while on duty.
- **84.6%** have seen or heard unprofessional behavior.
- **65.4%** believe most guards are unfit to handle a crisis.

These results, combined with student stories of being yelled at despite having hall passes and guards giving unclear instructions, show that the current system is failing to create a safe and respectful environment. Trust between students and security is low, and the lack of proper training continues to negatively impact daily school life.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

Mandatory Professionalism and Crisis-Response Training for All Security Guards

All ACHS security guards should be required to complete comprehensive training on de-escalation techniques, respectful communication with students, strict phone-use policies, and emergency preparedness. This training should occur initially and include refresher sessions at least once per semester.

Survey data support: With 80.8% of students reporting a lack of professionalism and 65.4% doubting guards’ ability to handle crises, this solution directly addresses the biggest problems shown in the data. Students also strongly supported further training in open responses. This change would rebuild trust and significantly improve school safety.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

If this solution is used, what will improve?

- Student sense of safety and respect in school hallways
- Guards’ ability to handle conflicts and emergencies professionally
- Overall school climate and trust between students and staff

CITATIONS

Eickert, C. (2025). *Titan Changemaker Listening Session Handout* [Handout].
Wells, I. B. (2026). *ACHS Security Guard Student Survey* [Original survey data]. Alexandria City High School, April 2026.

LEARN MORE

1. VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES – SCHOOL SECURITY TRAINING STANDARDS
2. OFFERS OFFICIAL GUIDELINES AND BEST PRACTICES THAT ACHS CAN USE TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE TRAINING PROGRAM.
3. CRISIS PREVENTION INSTITUTE (CPI) OR NATIONAL SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER RESOURCES