



BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL

Cheik Bamba

TOPIC

School Safety and Security

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

School safety and security affects students, teachers, staff, and families at Alexandria City High School. When students do not feel safe at school, it can affect their learning, attendance, focus, and mental well-being. Problems such as fights, bullying, unsafe hallways, and lack of supervision can make students uncomfortable during the school day. This issue matters in Alexandria because students should be able to learn in a safe and positive environment. Improving school safety can help students feel more protected, respected, and ready to succeed academically.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

According to student survey responses and school safety concerns, many students believe there should be stronger security measures and better supervision at school. This shows that school safety is still an important issue for students at Alexandria City High School. To solve this problem, I propose increasing visible security measures in schools. This includes adding more security staff with better experience, making sure all entrances are monitored at all times, and improving emergency response systems.

CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

This topic connects to the Children & Youth Community Plan goal of creating safe, supportive, and healthy environments for young people. School safety fits this goal because students need to feel secure and protected in order to learn successfully and participate positively in school activities.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

Title: “How Safe Students Feel at School”

- 50% Mostly Safe
- 50% Not Fully Safe / Unsure

The data shows that only about half of the students feel mostly safe at school. This means many students still have concerns about their safety during the school day.

This matters because students learn better when they feel safe and comfortable in their environment. If students feel unsafe, it can affect their focus, attendance, and overall well-being.

Title: “Student Comfort Talking With Staff About Safety Issues”

- 40% Mostly Comfortable
- 60% Not Comfortable / Unsure

The data shows that less than half of students feel mostly comfortable talking to staff about safety concerns. Many students may not feel supported or listened to when problems happen.

This matters because students need trusted adults they can report problems to during emergencies or unsafe situations. Poor communication can prevent safety issues from being addressed quickly.

Title: “Students Who Witness Unsafe Behaviors at School”

- More than 50% Have Seen Unsafe Behaviors
- Less than 50% Have Not Seen Unsafe Behaviors

The data shows that more than half of students have witnessed unsafe behaviors in places such as hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, or after school.

This matters because it shows that safety concerns are common and affect many students throughout the school environment. Unsafe behavior can create fear, distractions, and negative learning conditions.

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

Alexandria City Public Schools and Alexandria City High School have already used several strategies to improve school safety. These include security guards, school resource officers, visitor check-in systems, security cameras, emergency drills, and staff supervision throughout the building. The school also has rules and disciplinary actions for unsafe behavior.

WHO CAN HELP?

Stakeholder 1 – Alexandria City Public Schools
Alexandria City Public Schools can help by improving security policies, hiring experienced security staff, increasing supervision, and providing additional safety training for staff and students.
Stakeholder 2 – Alexandria Police Department
The Alexandria Police Department can help by supporting school resource officers, responding to emergencies quickly, helping with safety programs, and working with schools to prevent unsafe behavior.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

Alexandria City Public Schools and Alexandria City High School have taken several actions to improve school safety and security. These actions include hiring security guards, using school resource officers, installing security cameras, monitoring entrances, requiring visitor check-ins, and practicing emergency drills throughout the school year.
The survey data shows that these actions are helping some students feel safer because about 50% of students reported feeling mostly safe at school. However, more than 50% of students also reported seeing unsafe behaviors in hallways, bathrooms, classrooms, and after school. This shows that current safety strategies are helping somewhat, but they are not fully solving the problem.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

The data suggests that the current safety measures are only partially effective. While some students feel safe and protected, many students still have concerns about security and supervision at school. Students reported problems such as security guards not paying enough attention, doors not always being monitored, and slow responses to incidents.
This means that although efforts have been made to improve safety, the problem still exists and needs additional changes and stronger enforcement.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

Based on my survey data, school security and supervision should be improved throughout the school building. More experienced and attentive security staff should be hired to better monitor entrances, hallways, bathrooms, and after-school activities. All doors should remain monitored during the school day to reduce unauthorized visitors and improve emergency safety.
In addition, students should have more opportunities to report safety concerns comfortably and anonymously. Emergency response systems and communication between staff and students should also be improved so incidents can be handled faster and more effectively. My survey supports these solutions because over 60% of students said security measures should be improved, and many students reported concerns about supervision and slow responses to incidents.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

If these solutions are used, students at Alexandria City High School will likely feel safer and more comfortable during the school day. Improved supervision and stronger security measures can help reduce unsafe behaviors, improve emergency responses, and create a more positive learning environment.
Students, teachers, staff, and families would all benefit from a safer school environment. Better school safety can improve student focus, attendance, confidence, and overall success. By continuing to improve school security, ACHS can become a safer and more supportive place for everyone.

CITATIONS

Alexandria City Public Schools. (2026). School safety and security information. Alexandria City Public Schools. <https://www.acps.k12.va.us>
Eickert, C. (2025). Titan Changemaker Listening Session Handout [Handout].
National Center for School Safety. (2026). School safety resources. National Center for School Safety. <https://www.nc2s.org>
Student Safety Survey. (2026). School safety and security survey results conducted at Alexandria City High School.

LEARN MORE

Resource 1
[Alexandria City Public Schools Safety Information](#)
This resource explains school safety policies, emergency procedures, and student support services used throughout the school district.
Resource 2
[National Center for School Safety](#)
This resource provides information about improving school safety, preventing violence, and creating positive school environments for students.