Updates Of WCPSS Physical Security Infrastructure

Wake County Board of Commissioners Joint Meeting Raleigh, NC

March 18th, 2026

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Wake County Public School System

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Context:

Wake County Commissioners and Wake Board of Education members met in 2024 to share insights and deepen understanding of the district's safety and security measures. This collaboration aims to align efforts to maintain safe learning environment for students and staff.

Intent:

Provide a status update on those security measures and provide additional information on future security measures and collaboration between Wake County Emergency Management and WCPSS.

Desired Outcomes

- To provide an update on security projects from our joint Wake County Commissioners / Wake Board of Education Meeting.

- To provide an overview of the "Standard Response Protocol" for emergency response.

- To provide information information on the collaboration between Wake County Emergency Management and Wake County Public Schools to operate emergency shelters across the county.

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Status Updates Of Physical Security Infrastructure Projects

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Projects Announced at Joint WCPSS and Wake County Commissioners Meeting in 2024

- High School Spectator Event bag rules

- Say Something anonymous reporting application

- Staff emergency communications upgrades

- Security infrastructure projects

- RAVE mobile panic button pilot

HIGH SCHOOL SPECTATOR EVENT BAG RULES

Starting March 1, 2024

PERMITTED BAGS:

One clear plastic bag no larger than 12"x 15"x 3"

A small clear clutch bag or wristlet no larger than 4"x 6"x 1"

Diaper Bags

BAGS NOT PERMITTED

Duffle Bags

Messenger Bags

Purses

Fanny packs/belt bags

Backpacks/string bags

Scan here to read the full rules.

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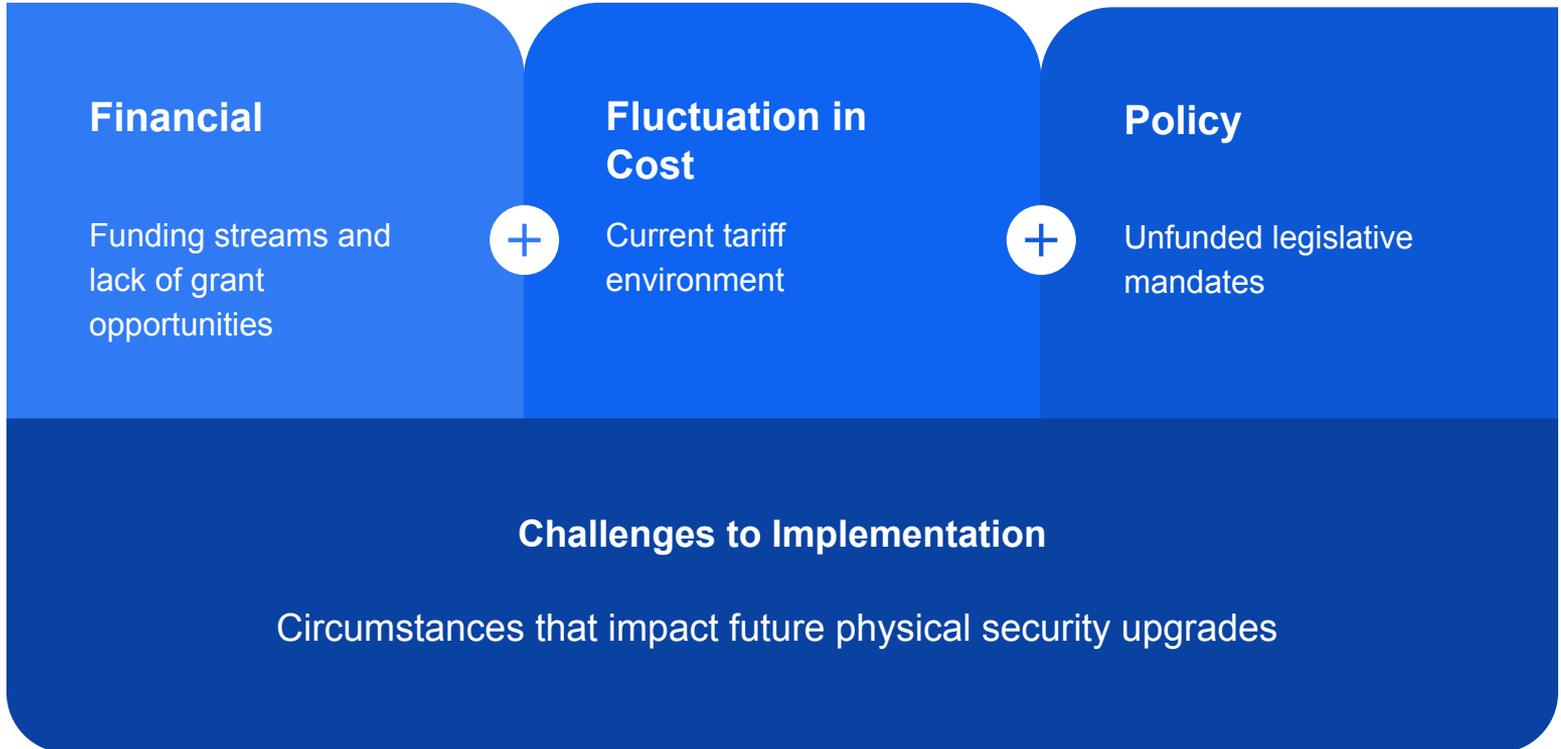
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Status of projects announced at joint WCPSS and Wake County Commissioners meeting in 2024

- High School Spectator Event bag rules - Completed and active

- See Something, Say Something application - Completed and active

- Staff Emergency Communications Upgrades - In progress and ongoing

- Security Infrastructure Projects - In planning stage

- RAVE Panic Alert Pilot - Completed and active

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Future Physical Security Infrastructure Enhancements

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Future Security Enhancement Plan Considerations

Financial

Funding streams and lack of grant opportunities

+

Fluctuation in Cost

Current tariff environment

+

Policy

Unfunded legislative mandates

Challenges to Implementation

Circumstances that impact future physical security upgrades

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Security Infrastructure Enhancement Examples

- Installation of door contacts and cameras
- Additional fencing
- Weapon detection systems
- Additional security staff
- Additional training for staff and students
- Real-time security center with staff
- Re-assessment of district security structures and practices

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Overview of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) and Standard Reunification Method (SRM)

Currently to address emergencies at WCPSS:

Code Yellow	Code Red	Code Green
Community Emergency Threat is near the school / facility but not directed at the school or facility.	Site based Emergency Threat is on property or inside the school or facility.	The emergency is clear. The threat has either left the area, is resolved or otherwise deemed to be safe. All normal operations can resume.

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Currently to address emergencies at WCPSS:

Fire Alarm	Severe Weather Alert	Code Green

Currently used to evacuate the school or facility, regardless of the reason for the evacuation.

This places the school or facility in a condition where occupants need to shelter in place.

The emergency is clear The threat has either left the area, is resolved or otherwise deemed to be safe. All normal operations can resume.

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Why Change?

Components of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP):

● The Standard Response Protocol allows for more flexibility in managing emergencies than current model

● Aligns with recommendations made from the 2019 SSAC Assessment

● Aligns with our Strategic Plan by way of:
  ○ Core Belief #4,
  ○ Priority #3
  ○ Aim #18

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The Standard Response Protocol Characteristics

Is NIMS Compliant with the use of "plain language"

Provides all hazards approach to emergency response

Provides an action step between Code Red and Code Yellow

Quickly becoming a school security "Best Practice"

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The building blocks of crisis response. An institutional all-hazards approach.

Hold · Secure · Lockdown · Evacuate · Shelter

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The Standard Response Protocol Components Defined

- SECURE - This is a similar action to the WCPSS Code Yellow

- **HOLD** - This is a new action to WCPSS, keeps students in classrooms, out of hallways. Best described as action between Code Red and Yellow.

- LOCKDOWN - This is a similar action to the WCPSS Code Red.

- EVACUATION - This action is used to move occupants into or out of certain parts of the building.

- SHELTER - This action is used to move occupants into a shelter in place condition within the building.

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Emergency Response Shelters: A collaboration between WCPSS and Wake County Emergency Management

Emergency Shelter

Wake County Emergency Management and the Wake County Public School System have been partners for many years to support the broader community in the event of an emergency.

Our joint efforts have identified several emergency shelter locations throughout the county.

Emergency Shelter

Shelter locations:

- Sanderson High School
- Knightdale High School
- Southeast Raleigh High School
- Middle Creek High School
- Garner High School (this location also is used for decon shelter for Sherron Harris power plant)

There are several different types of emergencies that could activate sheltering the community:

- Severe Winter Weather
- Hurricanes
- Emergency at Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant
- Any large scale emergency where citizens would need shelter for safety

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Dialogue and Questions

FROM HERE, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.

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