

Safety is a top priority in the Elk Grove Unified School District. The district is committed to raising community awareness about potential dangers such as gangs and the Internet. Elk Grove Unified also uses several proactive approaches to maintain student safety, including: school safety plans at every school, emergency procedure guidelines, the We-Tip program, fingerprint checks, emergency radios and other communications tools, training exercises, campus security services, and undercover officers (when warranted by law enforcement). Below are listed a number of district initiatives aimed at keeping students safe.

Gang Awareness Workshops

Since April 2002, Elk Grove Unified School District officials and local law enforcement leaders offered gang awareness seminars throughout the district to parents, students, community members, administrators, and teachers. The seminars were in response to a recent increase in youth violence in the community. The symposiums featured keynote speakers from the following agencies: Elk Grove Unified School District, Elk Grove Police Department, Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, Elk Grove Education Association and the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office.

Internet Safety

Through a partnership with the U.S. Attorney's Office's program Project Safe Childhood, the district held an Internet Safety seminar at Sheldon High School in 2007 and presented an Internet Safety video contest for students in 2008. The seminar examined the potential dangers of Internet surfing and the use of chat rooms and social networking sites such as MySpace. Parents received tips on safe Web use by children. The video contest gave students the opportunity to create public service announcements about the dangers of the Internet.

Drug Dog Program

In August 2006, the district started a drug dog program in partnership with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department. This proactive program is designed to increase school safety and awareness about drug and weapon possession. The program creates an additional deterrent to the possession of contraband. Before

starting the program, numerous community groups and student leaders were consulted for input. Dogs do not sniff students but they are able to sniff lockers, vehicles, and common areas (i.e. hallway, etc.) when students are not present. Signs are posted at all EGUSD high schools alerting students about the drug dog program. All high schools are subject to search on unannounced, random visits.

Campus Safety

Through a partnership with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department, School Resource Officers (SROs) are assigned to every high school in the district and are responsible for a region. These officers not only assist in providing a safe environment, they also act as role models, building lasting relationships with students.

Laguna Rescue

In February 2008, hundreds of EGUSD staff members participated in a full-scale active shooter scenario called "Laguna Rescue" at Laguna Creek High School and Harriet Eddy Middle School. The event was put on by the Office of Homeland Security and involved law enforcement and emergency services agencies from across the Sacramento Region. The event served as a training exercise to prepare both school staff and law enforcement in the event of an emergency.

Emergency Auto Dialing System

Elk Grove Unified has an emergency communications tool in the form of an emergency auto dialing system. In the case of a major emergency, the auto dialer system will allow the district to call all numbers listed as a contact number on a student's emergency contact list.

We-Tip Program

Elk Grove Unified joined the We-Tip School Safety Program in 2005. A national non-profit organization, We-Tip staffs operators that take anonymous tips from all 50 states - including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. If you've seen a crime or suspicious activity in a school, We-Tip is here to help you report it. It all boils down to one thing to remember – **"If you SEE something or KNOW something, SAY something."** Tips can be reported to 1-800-78-CRIME.