



**CURTIS CREEK SCHOOL  
DISTRICT**

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September 20, 2023

**From: Dawn Mori  
Curtis Creek School District Superintendent  
Response to Grand Jury  
Report dated June 30, 2023**

Findings and statement of reasons therefore:

F1: The school has an accessible safety plan, which is deemed important by the administration. The plan is executed with the aid of radios used by all staff members, and it is reviewed and edited in collaboration with the Tuolumne County Sheriff's office.

Curtis Creek School District agrees with this finding.

F2: Safety drills are conducted monthly and documented in the school's office. The school has also participated in ALICE training, provided by law enforcement, and holds "Get Away" drills specifically for active shooter scenarios.

Curtis Creek School District agrees with this finding.

F3: When asked about the plan to have children return to campus after they have practiced the drill, interviewees didn't have a systematic plan.

We do not agree with this finding. When we practice the Get Away drill students do not practice by running off campus or out of the eyesight of staff. Classes run throughout campus and hide but are in the eyesight of their teachers. They are always instructed that if this were not a drill they would continue to run off campus and in varying directions. They are also instructed that they would not return to campus but that law enforcement and school staff would come and find them.

F4: All visitors to the campus are challenged and encouraged to wear identification badges.

Curtis Creek School District agrees with this finding.

F5: The school's campus is only 50% fenced, leaving certain areas exposed to potential unwanted guests, while also providing students with potential escape routes in emergencies.

Curtis Creek School District agrees with this finding. Although approximately half of our campus is unfenced there are several reasons for having it remain that way. Much of the fencing is barbed wire and is on a steep hillside that the school sits up against. In order to completely fence in the school it would be extremely cost prohibitive to do so given the physical structure of campus. In addition, our training through ALICE has taught us that students need to be able to get away and hide quickly. Perimeter fencing would limit their abilities to do so. Fencing can easily be scaled by an adult intent on harm and would be difficult for small students to scale in order to get to a safe location.

**Responses to Recommendations: (BE SURE TO PLACE ALL RECOMMENDATIONS INTO ONE OF THESE CATEGORIES: IMPLEMENTED, REQUIRES FURTHER ANALYSIS, OR NOT IMPLEMENTED)**

Implemented recommendations:

R1: To enhance the effectiveness of the safety plan, it would be beneficial to ensure that all staff members, including substitutes, receive a copy of the plan and are properly trained. This will ensure continuity and efficiency in case of an emergency.

Currently, all staff members receive a copy of the plan and training. Substitutes will be provided a summary of our emergency procedures and a location as to where the plan is located in the classroom they will be subbing in. Substitutes also participate in an online training program provided through our JPA that ensures knowledge of how to handle emergencies.

R2: It is commendable that the school is actively engaging in drills and training sessions. To further improve, the school could consider incorporating a wider variety of emergency situations into their drill regimen. Additionally, involving students more directly in these drills can help them understand what to do in a real-life scenario.

The school is performing all types of scenarios with our students. Students and staff participate in a safety week during the first part of September where teachers walk through a variety of different scenarios with their students. Real life situations in an age appropriate manner are used in these training sessions. Drills are held monthly with law enforcement and fire department staff who observe and give feedback to improve safety.

Recommendations requiring further analysis:

R3: The school should establish a system for ensuring that students know how and when the “Get Away” drill or actual emergency event has ended and how they should return to the campus safely.

Our students are with staff during the practice of get away drills and therefore know what to do and how to return to their classroom. We are looking into the practice and planning of a reunification plan in the event of a real Get away scenario and what that would look like for staff and students.

R4: While the practice of challenging visitors and requiring identification is excellent, it could be supplemented with a more formal check-in/check-out system for visitors. This could help track non-staff adults on campus and ensure that everyone on campus has a reason to be there.

Curtis Creek School District is looking into software that prints badges for visitors and performs background checks. Various programs exist that allow for visitors to sign in and the software will automatically search databases and perform a Megan’s law check. If there is a concern school staff are discreetly notified of the flags so that they can be addressed before the visitor is allowed on campus. These programs are set up for larger districts and we are continuing to look for a system that would work well for our smaller school district and needs.

R5: To better secure the school grounds, consider completing the fencing around the entire campus. This would help control access points to the school and potentially deter unwanted guests. If this is not feasible due to the natural environment, other security measures could be explored, such as additional surveillance in unfenced areas or strategic landscaping to deter unauthorized access.

Curtis Creek School District both agrees and disagrees with this recommendation. Although approximately half of our campus is unfenced there are several reasons for having it remain that way. Much of the fencing is barbed wire and is on a steep hillside that the school sits up against. In order to completely fence in the school it would be extremely cost prohibitive to do so given the physical structure of campus. In addition, our training through ALICE has taught us that students need to be able to get away and hide quickly. Perimeter fencing would limit their abilities to do so. Fencing can easily be scaled by an adult intent on harm and would be difficult for small students to scale in order to get to a safe location. We have also been looking into installing additional cameras so that we are able to see all access points possible. This continues to be something we look to budget and prioritize. .