



## **Royer Greaves School for Blind**

**August 19, 2021**

### **School Safety and Security Coordinator Report**

Per Section 1309-B of the PA Public School Code the following report is presented to the Board of Directors.

During the past year, school wide safety and plans have focused on needs to address the impact of COVID -19. Campus wide review of needs has been ongoing.

#### **Physical Plant:**

1. Signage needs have been addressed throughout the campus. Signs specifically to support use of mitigations for COVID-19 were placed. During the SY 21-22, signage needs/revisions/ adjustments will be reviewed to assure safety campus wide.
2. The traffic pattern for bus loading and unloading was altered this past year, so that only one bus actively loading/unloading students at a time. All busses/students in wheelchairs were loading/unloading in a separate place near the Main House. No incidents occurred during the 20-21 SY. Prior to the start of the year, the traffic pattern will be changed with a designated loading/unloading area and new road surface. During the SY 21-22, the safety of the student loading/unloading will be reviewed.
3. Trees and other areas of vegetation have been cleared/cut/trimmed. During the SY 21-22, ongoing review of campus needs will be conducted.
4. During the SY 20-21, the focus on the buildings for schools' students targeted assuring health safety due to COVID -19. For SY 21-22, the school teams needs to explore vulnerability related to weather, intruders, and other emergencies. Examples of physical plant needs include blinds on window, locks.
5. Currently doors are locked by key. To support safety, teachers have each had keys and doors are locked. The team has been exploring the use of fobs/ keypads to allow limited/controlled access to the building. Video cameras use has also been explored. Both systems will allow for increased safety for students, and staff.

6. Fencing was added to the playground area for the start of the 20-21 SY. This addition added security for both students and staff.
7. The school ventilation systems were upgraded with Ultraviolet technology added to the HVAC systems.

### **Health and Safety:**

1. At the start of the 20-21 SY, a school wide re-opening plan was developed and implemented. Throughout the school year, the plan was monitored and adjusted to reflect current trends in COVID-19 and CDC and countywide guidance. A team, with representatives across the Royer- Greaves Community met on an ongoing basis to address the changing needs. Please see the separate plan and task force reports. For the 21-22 SY, the school will continue to implement mitigations to maximize student and staff health and safety.
2. Cleaning and sanitizing procedures were changed to reflect CDC/Chester County Health Department recommendations. This included Complete deep-cleaning and sanitizing practices recommended by Health Department prior to re-opening, following any presumed or confirmed case of COVID. For the 21-22 SY, we anticipate continuing the same cleaning procedures as conducted during the prior school year. The processes will be reviewed throughout the year.
3. No school closures occurred due to COVID-19. Individual cases and exposures were tracked via online contact tracing and reported to the County Health Department. In the utmost of caution, two classrooms were conducted remotely for short periods. There were no instances of transmission of COVID 19 at school. For the SY 21-22, the school will continue to address health and safety needs per Chester County Health Department guidance.

### **Technology**

1. Walkie talkies were purchased to support teacher and other staff communication throughout campus. We will continue to examine communication needs throughout the SY 21-22.
2. Internet connectivity across campus was reviewed and upgraded to allow increased access within buildings as well as campus wide. Ongoing review of internet and other technology needs will be conducted.

### **Drills**

1. Fire drill have been conducted monthly with consistent prompt evacuation of school building. During the past year, drills were conducted at the end of the month. During the 21-22 SY, Royer-Greaves will move to conduct fire drills within the first 10 days of the month

2. Each of the district transportation services completed planned bus evacuation drills over the past school year. Individual students' needs for safe transport (e.g., wheelchair lifts, 5 – point harness) were address with collaboration with each individual district. In the 21-22 SY, Royer-Greaves will continue to support transportation safety for our students.

### **Staff training**

1. Information on school safety and security training and resources provided to students and staff—this could include:
  - a. School safety and security training. New staff have been trained as part of their orientation. Campus wide procedures for staff, visitors and students will be reviewed for all staff at the start of the 21-22-SY.
  - b. Suicide awareness and prevention training (required by 24 P.S. 15-1526). Staff training was conducted in September of 2018.  
Training will be provided 21-22 School year via online course:  
Suicide Prevention for Educators (8 Module Course)
  - c. Child abuse recognition and reporting training has been completed via the online course “Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse: Mandated and Permissive Reporting” from the University of Pittsburg.
  - d. CPR and First Aid certification training was completed in April of 2021 for all staff. Continued monitoring of need for training in the 21-22 SY.
  - e. Training with first responders. – All staff completed virtual Fire and Safety training
  - f. Safe2Say Something training will be included in educational training for our transitioning students and staff during the 21-22 SY. Safe2Say Something is a youth violence prevention program run by the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General. The program teaches youth and adults how to recognize warning signs and signals, especially within social media, from individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others and to “say something” BEFORE it is too late.

### **Safety/School Data**

1. Safe2Say Something aggregate data: During this past School year, we have had no incidences of suicide. Individual students have been supported by nursing and other staff to maximize mental health and safety during the past year. During the SY 21-22, Royer-Greaves will continue to explore ways to

support students and families.

2. Safe School Report (PDE PIMS Report) reported no infractions.
3. Behavioral health consultation and student support has been provided through the Chester County Intermediate Unit. No restraints occurred. Ongoing review will be conducted in the SY 21-22.

**Community:**

1. Royer-Greaves continues to explore ways to support students and families at home and supports for transition to adult services. The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is a resource that we are seeking to be develop a more seamless connection for student support. Royer Greaves will continue to explore and develop a list of teams and resources available in the school entity related to school safety and security (i.e., school safety/emergency preparedness teams, Student Assistance, child study or crisis response teams).
2. No school violence was reported to the Office for Safe Schools reports for the 20-21 SY. Royer- Greaves will continue to monitor and report as required.
3. The school continues to work with local law enforcement agencies, as needed.
4. During this past year, we did not allow visitors, following guidance from the Chester County Health Department and CDC. As the county lifted restrictions, tours were conducted with potential families, maintaining safety and health mitigations. All tours were conducted by the school administration.
5. No grants were received to support school safety and security efforts. Royer-Greaves will continue to explore funding sources such as PDE, PEMA/FEMA and other private grants.

## **PRIORITIES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR 21-22/AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT:**

### **Long-Term Goals**

- A. Conduct a risk & vulnerability assessment
- B. Maximize safety for all student, staff, and others in the Royer-Greaves community.

### **Short Term Goals:**

- A. Create Safety team to address school and campus wide needs.
- B. Explore vulnerability related to weather, intruders, and other emergencies.
- C. Purchase and install safety supports as needed/identified, such as ballistic film on first floor windows and classroom locks
- D. Continue to explore surveillance and door access systems, procedures, and policy.
- E. Create A "Go Bag" is an emergency-preparedness bag for each class.
- F. Continue to work with community leaders and agencies to maximize student and staff safety.