

The Franklin County school district unveils school shooting response plan

The Franklin County school district, in cooperation with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office, has developed a new safety protocol for protecting its school buildings against intruders. The protocol was tested at Western Hills High School in February and will be implemented in all Franklin County school district schools, according to Franklin County's new superintendent, Chrissy Jones.

Along with a dedicated active shooter alarm, technicians have tied Western Hills High School's surveillance cameras and public address system to the city's dispatch center. If a shooting ever happens, dispatchers will immediately be able to see inside the school and can talk first responders through the hallways and to the shooter over the school's loudspeakers, deputies said. The protocol also includes a letter and number identification system for navigating the school's hallways – a system that can be adapted to any school building.

While they hope it's something they never have to use, Franklin County Sheriff's deputies said their new school shooting response plan is ready. "If it's an active shooter, seconds are precious because it's going to save a lot of lives."

