

# Brooklyn Public Schools Reunification Parent Presentation



May 10, 2023



# Safety is our highest priority!

This is can be a difficult topic, but an important reason to have a conversation!

**Thank you:** Parents, Staff Members, School and District Safety Teams,

Resident Trooper Ambrose, many other local and

State Police Police, Troop D, QV Dispatch,

Fire Departments, Ambulance/EMT, Emergency Manager,

Elected Officials: Board of Education

Board of Selectmen



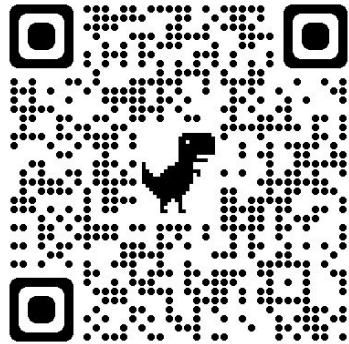
# How has BPS Prepared for an Emergency?

- **Monthly Drills:** We have fire drills, lockdown drills, stay put drills
  - Debrief/After Action Reviews are conducted
  - We submit this report to the State annually
- **Training:** Run, Hide, Fight Training (Alice Trainers provided training), Safety Trainings, Participation in the Regional Safety Meetings
- **Communication tools:** Crisis Go, Radios, Camera systems
- **Standard Reunification Protocol:** I Love You Guys protocols

# School Safety Conference June 2022

Secret Service Training and

Reference Materials Reviewed



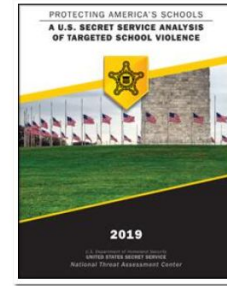
Ashley Simolinski, US Secret Service Agent

## – School/Campus Attacks



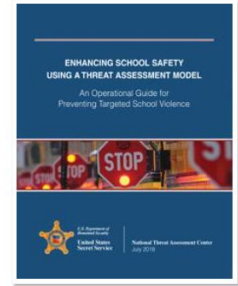
MAR 2021

Averting Targeted School Violence: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Plots Against Schools



NOV 2019

Protecting America's Schools: A U.S. Secret Service Analysis of Targeted School Violence



JUL 2018

Enhancing School Safety Using a Threat Assessment Model: An Operational Guide for Preventing Targeted School Violence

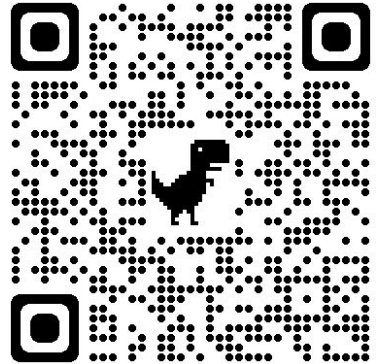
# Training

- **Monthly Drills:** We have fire drills, lockdown drills, stay put drills
- **Staff are empowered:** all staff are empowered to act on behalf of our students
- **Recommendations:** CT State Police Tactical Team Walkthrough
  - Locks
  - Doors/entrance protocols
  - Window film
  - Radios-headsets
  - Crisis Go
  - Cameras and badge system

# Why should we discuss this?

Reference: [Sandy Hook Commission Report](#)

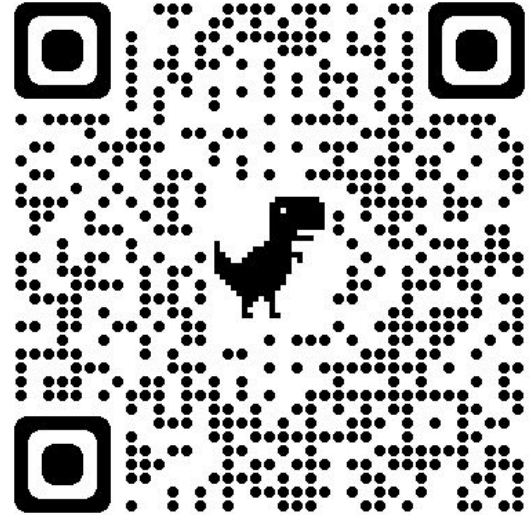
- State recommendations
- Local recommendations
- Brooklyn collaborates with local emergency personnel
- Brooklyn submits the School Security and Safety Plans



# What is Standard Response Protocol?

## I Love You Guys

- Standard Response Protocol
  - Crisis Go Communication
- Standard Reunification Method



# Why would we need to reunify?

- Recovery starts when the crisis begins. Reunification is necessary if we are unable to safely dismiss students in the standard method. This could be related to a natural disaster, facility malfunction or act of violence.
- Planning for reunification is the first step
  - Accountability is critical
  - This is an evolving process
  - We will communicate with parents
  - We will operate under the Incident Command Structure used by all first responders



# What would be happening in school?

- Students and staff would likely be in a lockdown situation
  - Report to the nearest room, lock doors and turn off lights, remain quiet
- Run - Hide - Fight: if it is safe to get away they may choose to run
- Remain in this location until released by police
- Communication only with school staff via Crisis-Go

# Who will respond?

If there was an emergency incident we would likely get a response from:

- Police: State, local, on and off duty officers
- Fire and EMS: Mortlake, East Brooklyn and many other local departments
- Emergency Management Personnel: locally and State

# What might guardians expect?

- Guardians will be informed of an incident once we are authorized to do so.
  - This may take some time.
  - Some community members may be aware of an incident due to police, scanner chatter.
  - You will hear via School Messenger first
  - You may read it on the School Website or District Facebook
  - You will NOT get a personal call, text or communication in any fashion from your child's teacher or friend who works at the school
  
- Large scale event: you would remain at home or work until directed to report to a reunification location
  - You will likely not be able to get near the school if there was a large police presence
  - Gorman Road would likely be closed to traffic
  - The perimeter of the school grounds would be under police control

# Communication

- **Parents and staff notifications:** School Messenger, Facebook (one way communication, phones will likely NOT be answered)
- Staff will NOT communicate with students' families
  - We need to keep cell phone traffic low to allow first responders to communicate
  - The school will coordinate with State Police about what can be communicated
- The information will be clear and as frequent as possible but this process WILL take a long time!

# Sample Parent Communication

The Brooklyn Public Schools have been in a lockdown since \_\_\_\_\_.

We are working with the Police to secure the building.

At this time you are not allowed to come to the school due to police presence.

Please wait for additional information about when and where you will be reunified with your child(ren).

At this time we have no known injuries/we have some individuals who are being treated for injuries.

We will communicate as soon as possible about the next steps. (continued below)

# Sample Parent Communication (continued)

**Please note:** Please do NOT come to the school at this time. You will be NOT be able to access the building and roads will most likely be blocked by emergency personnel. Please try to remain calm and know that we will provide you with updates as soon as we have more information.

**Staff members will NOT reply to requests for information as they are not authorized to do so.**

## **(follow up communication)**

We will need to reunify you with your children at an alternate location. We will provide you with reunification directions when we are cleared to do so.

I want to remind parents and guardians that we are committed to the safety and security of your children and have plans in place to get your children home as quickly and safely as possible.

# Sample Communication: Parent Reunification

The Brooklyn Public Schools have been cleared and is no longer in lockdown.

Please report to **\*\*location\*\*** to pick up your child (Street Address: **119 Gorman Road; Brooklyn**). Please travel safely and expect delays due to possible road closures/detours.

Please drive to the specified parking area and enter through the marked doors where you will see cones and signs. Please follow the signs upon arrival. Please expect delays as there are many emergency personnel on-site.

**\*\*Please bring photo identification\*\*** If you do not have identification we will work with you, however the process will go smoother if you have a photo ID ready upon arrival.

We know this is a difficult and stressful time, but please try to remain calm as this process will take time and we ask for patience. Our staff are with the students and keeping them calm.

I will send another communication once we are done and all children have been reunified.

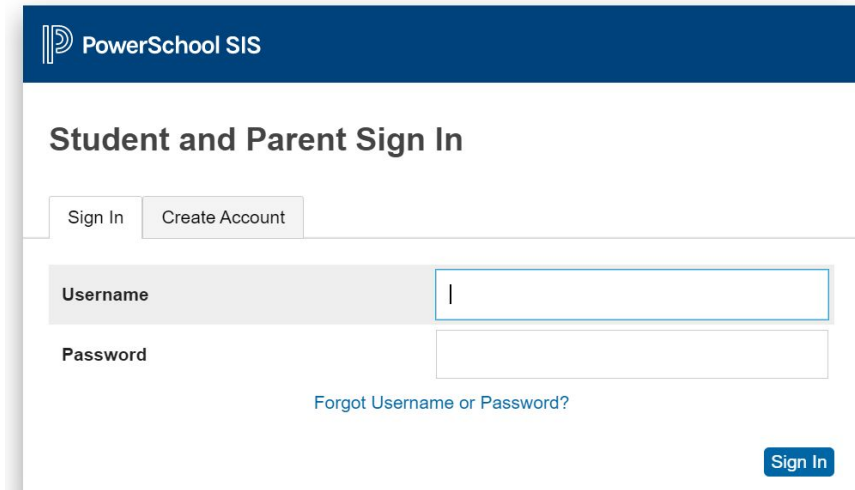
# What would **your** children need to know?

- We practice and drill at least monthly.
- Students are told to report to the nearest classroom in the event of an emergency.
- Students are used to taking directions from their teacher and will follow their lead.
- Students will not be allowed to text or call home as they do not have phones in school.
- Young students will remain with their teachers and likely NOT run.
- Older students may leave the school if the adult feels that it is the safest thing to do. (The adult will have some communication with administration via Crisis Go)

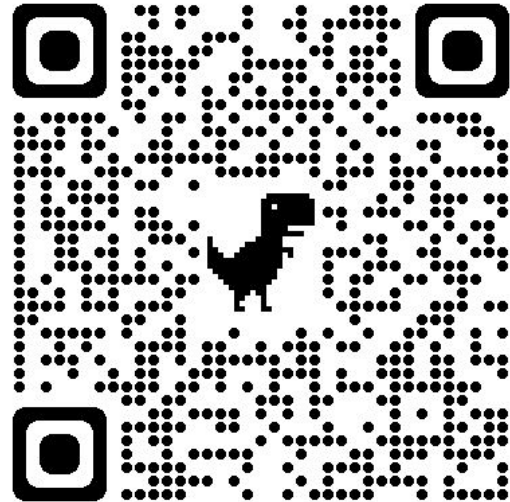


# What can I do as a parent?

FIRST and most importantly: Keep your contact information updated in PowerSchool.




The image shows a screenshot of the PowerSchool SIS login page. At the top, there is a dark blue header with the PowerSchool SIS logo and name. Below the header, the page title "Student and Parent Sign In" is displayed. There are two buttons: "Sign In" and "Create Account". Below these buttons are two input fields: "Username" and "Password". The "Username" field contains a single vertical bar character. Below the "Password" field is a link that says "Forgot Username or Password?". At the bottom right of the form is a blue "Sign In" button.





# Next, you can fine tune your contact information!

You can set up for calls, texts and emails to multiple numbers. (Texts arrive fastest but are short)  
You can also install a SchoolMessenger App!

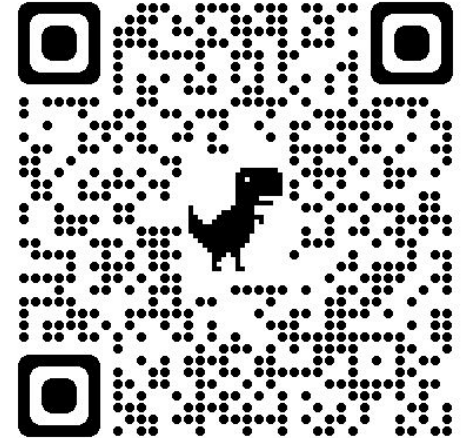
*A powerful new way to stay connected to your student's school or district*



 SCHOOLMESSENGER®

Parents and guardians: [Click here for SchoolMessenger video](#)



# What questions do you have?

1. **Reunification location:** We have discussed this with police and have determined that the reunification location will be communicated if/when we need it. This is being kept confidential for safety reasons.
2. **How long will this take?** We have heard that this could take many hours.
3. **Communication:** Keep contact information updated
4. **Know and trust** that we are taking steps to improve safety and security every day. We review drills to improve our practices.
5. **Learn more about this?**

USSS Averting Targeted School Violence QR Code



SchoolSafety.gov: Resources to create a safer school

