



# ALHAMBRA

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## UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT  
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## Superintendent's Open Letter on Safety to Parents, Teachers, Staff and Community

*Student + Employee Safety is Alhambra Unified School District's Priority One*

Dear Parents, Teachers, Staff and Community,

In the aftermath of the school tragedy in Florida and others like it, I write to underscore Alhambra Unified School District's profound commitment to the safety and security of our 17,000 students and 2,500 staff.

The AUSD *Gateway To Success* prevent-prepare-and-protect protocols we have in place for our family of students, teachers and staff include annual mood assessments; depression screenings; prevention education; critical incident training; active shooter drills; an infrastructure of community partnerships, parent education, and extensive, layered, long-standing daily safeguards.

Our AUSD Gateway program wins national recognition and awards. Police departments and school districts from around the state come to us for training and guidance. The AUSD *Gateway To Success* program for student and employee mental health + safety is a model for the country with its pioneering, comprehensive approach to prevention and protection.

The *Gateway* program is particularly notable for its vital linking of mental health and safety; for screening and treating the symptoms of mental health challenges and behavior issues K-12; for addressing the root causes of lethal despair and behavior problems, such as hunger, homelessness, grief, abuse, losing a parent, being in foster care, etc.; and for its year-round parent education programs to better help families assist their children in becoming their best selves.

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I must emphasize, however, that even with the most visionary mental health and safety programs, school safety still takes all of us, working together as a community. I ask you to let us know immediately any questions or concerns you have by calling **626-943-3410**. *Security is always a shared responsibility and communities flourish when we join forces to protect the most vulnerable among us.*

In that collaborative spirit, I ask that you take a look at the general overview of AUSD prevent-prepare-and-protect protocols outlined below, regularly check the safety tab on the [www.ausd.us](http://www.ausd.us) website, listen to and talk with your children, stay alert and calm, and swiftly communicate with any concerns or questions you have by calling **626-943-3410**.

With dedication and vigilance,

Denise Jaramillo

### **General Overview of Safety Measures We Have in Place:**

School Safety Committee and School Safety Plan are specific to each campus. Committees meet throughout the year; Safety Plans are updated annually.

Annual Safety Walkthroughs for every campus thoroughly examine and review each site for areas needing security improvement.

Locked campuses require every visitor to check-in at the office or at a specified location.

Campus supervisors are assigned to each school site, and district-wide security staff rotates to all campuses throughout the day.

Two School Resource Officers employed by Alhambra Police Department (APD) are assigned to AUSD sites. The Officers respond to incidents and, as important, teach ongoing prevention training for students and parents.

Strong partnerships with local law enforcement: AUSD and APD work together on active shooter trainings and critical incident drills. APD provides ongoing counsel and assessments on security.

Threat assessment guidelines are developed and implemented in conjunction with Alhambra Police Department.

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Multiple, proprietary, layered security protocols are in place at every campus, with more added on a continuing basis.

**Recognizing that safety is not just security, AUSD has a number of prevention programs:**

Gateway Team of counselors, interns, clinical supervisors for K-12.

Anti-Bullying curriculum for grades K-12.

Suicide and depression annual screenings K-12.

Annual suicide prevention education and training for staff, parents and students.

Anti-gang education G.R.E.A.T program for elementary students in conjunction with Alhambra Police Department.

Board policy requiring us to look at intervention protocols to address root causes of behavior issues for students rather than simple suspensions and traditional discipline.

Multiple parent education programs, some year-round, for elementary and secondary schools, to ensure that families know how best to communicate with their students for a healthy home environment which promotes student academic success.

Extensive Intern Academy training for university students who assist AUSD students identified as in need of mental health counseling.

Strict AUSD policy requiring immediate reporting of any threat, perceived threat or concern about security.

**Strong AUSD community partnerships are vital for the safety and success of our children and staff. Some of our AUSD partners include:**

- AUSD Board of Education
- Alhambra PTA Council
- Alhambra Teachers Association
- Classified School Employees Association, Chapter 295
- Alhambra Management Association
- YMCA of West San Gabriel Valley
- Tzu Chi Foundation

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Kingdom Causes  
Alhambra Police Department  
Alhambra Fire Department  
Monterey Park Police Department  
San Gabriel Police Department  
City of Alhambra and City of Monterey Park  
City and County Elected officials  
LA County agencies  
Local Prosecutors  
Local Judges  
Local Universities (11)  
Local, regional and national non-profits

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