



SYRACUSE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Jaime Alicea, Superintendent of Schools

Department of Public Safety

Thomas Ristoff, Director

Dear District Community Members,

August 23, 2021

As we welcome students and staff back to our schools in person we are excited to continue in person learning and see the smiling faces of our wonderful students, staff and greater school community.

The District Department of Public Safety has retained our focus on school safety and planning, to maintain a safe environment for all of our school community stakeholders. We continue to review all of our existing practices, plans, and systems with a focus on areas in need of improvement.

We are well aware that as we return operations to a greater degree of normalcy there may be some persisting anxiety and we will continue to work to minimize that anxiety. We strive to build the personal confidence of our students, staff and greater community through education and safety training, subsequently, allowing them to respond effectively within an emergency.

The District will continue to utilize the Standard Response Protocol as our emergency operations platform and we will continue our partnership with the State University of New York, College at Oswego to assist us in providing training for students and staff and will continue to complete surveys to assess future safety training needs.

Our objectives include providing a safe and supporting environment for all, to leverage cost effective safety solutions and technology, while treating all persons with courtesy, professionalism and respect. As a department of public safety, we are committed to working closely with our community, support organizations, local law enforcement and public safety agencies, to solicit input to provide us with direction and transparency.

As you are aware, the District Safety Plan consists of three active components, which receive annual updates:

[The District Code of Conduct, Character and Support](#); [District Emergency Response Plan](#); [District Safety Action Plan](#).

I invite you to review each of these components of the District Safety Plan and provide us with any comment, which you feel would be meaningful in relationship to the safety climate within our schools.

Thank you in advance, for your continuing contribution to school safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Ristoff'.

Thomas Ristoff, Chief Emergency Officer