



Effingham County Board of Education

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Superintendent
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To: **Guyton Elementary** parents and guardians

Ref: New access controls

Over the past few months, we have been working toward completing a project where we are installing access controls at all the elementary schools in our system. This project was originally piloted beginning last fall at Sand Hill Elementary School. The remaining elementary schools will soon be complete, and we are excited to tell you about it.

The new access control system will allow the school doors to be electronically and remotely locked and unlocked for safety and security. The system is an “access control” system because it controls access to the school. School personnel will key in and out with an access card, and doors will be locked and monitored with access software and exterior cameras.

Many of you may work at a facility where similar access controls already exist such as industrial plants, hospitals, nursing homes, banks, etc. Access controls have become more and more commonplace to insure the safety of the building occupants...which for us are our children. As parents and guardians, how will you be impacted? You will continue to be able to visit the school under the published COVID guidelines. None of that will change. The only difference that you will notice is that before you enter the main door, you will first use the videophone to call the attendant, who will then verify your identification by picture I.D. and reason for your visit at the videophone before you enter the vestibule (just as she has done in the past at the reception window). If needed, you will be buzzed into the security vestibule. At this point, you will continue to the receptionist to conduct your business in the same manner that you normally do.

I want to personally thank all of our parents and guardians for the support that you give our school system every day. We have enjoyed much success with educating our students, but we could not have done it without the families who have come along side us to bolster our efforts. Even though we know we face challenges, we are encouraged and humbled by your continued support as you trust us with your children.

Larissa Knight
Effingham County Schools
Energy Education and School Safety Manager

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