Wa-Nee Community Schools
School Safety Proposal

Why a School Safety Referendum?

Every parent deserves to know that when their child steps onto campus, they are secure, supported, and ready to learn. Since 2018, the Safety Operating Referendum has turned that conviction into daily reality at every Wa-Nee school. The referendum simply preserves what is now essential: the people, programs, and protections that keep classrooms focused on learning.

Impact to Date—Made Possible by the Referendum

- **Five Full-Time School Resource Officers (SROs)**
  - One officer stationed in every school, fully certified through the National Association of School Resource Officers and employed by Nappanee or Wakarusa Police Departments.
  - Rapid on-site response, daily relationship-building, and expert safety training for staff and students.
- **Five Mental Health Counselors**
  - In 2024-25 alone, counselors provided confidential, **parent-approved** support to 192 students—defusing crises before they become emergencies
- **Alternative Education Programs (Middle & High School)**
  - 79 students (grades 6-12) accessed a full-day or hybrid alternative program tailored to their needs.
  - **100 percent** of participating seniors (27/27) graduated in 2025, contributing to **three consecutive years of record-high NWHS graduation rates** (2023: 95.3 %, 2024: 97.8 %, 2025: 98.0%).
- **Facility Hardening & Technology Upgrades**
  - Enhanced camera systems, safety film on exterior glass, perimeter fencing, and secured school entrances.
- **Staff Expertise**
  - 15 certified School Safety Specialists.
  - 178 staff trained in Trust-Based Relational Intervention (trauma-informed practices), ensuring responses to student behavior are both safe and healing.
- **Community Impact**
  - Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) training for all elective Junior/Senior female PE participants.
  - Trust-Based Relational Intervention training for community members

The Cost of Standing Still

The 2018 Safety Referendum is expiring. Failing to pass the new referendum would mean scaling back or eliminating these very measures—returning us to slower police response times, reducing and eliminating student access to mental-health support, and fewer options for at-risk students. In school safety, standing still is falling behind.

WA-NEE Community Schools

Wa-Nee Community Schools
School Safety Proposal

The Path Forward

By voting for the School Safety Referendum, our community guarantees that:

1. **Protection remains proactive, not reactive.**
2. **Mental-health care remains readily accessible to students with parental consent.**
3. **Every student has a supported pathway to graduation through academic guidance, alternative programs, and wrap-around services.**

Together, we have built a stronger, safer Wa-Nee. Let's protect that progress and keep our schools a place where safety and learning go hand in hand.

Funding Breakdown:

Year 1	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 600,000.00
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 420,000.00
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 350,000.00
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 380,000.00
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 2	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 624,000.00
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 432,600.00
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 360,500.00
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 332,900.00
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 3	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 648,960.00
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 445,578.00
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 371,315.00
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 284,147.00
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 4	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 674,918.40
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 458,945.34
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 382,454.45
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 233,681.81
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 5	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 701,915.14
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 472,713.70
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 393,928.08
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 181,443.08
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 6	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 729,991.74
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 486,895.11
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 405,745.93
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 127,367.22
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 7	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 759,191.41
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 501,501.96
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 417,918.30
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 71,388.32
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

Year 8	
Item	**Cost**
SRO Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 789,559.07
Mental Health Counselor Salary/Benefits (5)	$ 516,547.02
Alternative Education/Behavior Support Costs	$ 430,455.85
School Safety Equipment/Resources/Training	$ 13,438.06
Total	**$ 1,750,000.00**

FAQs:

- How much will this proposal cost?
  - To sustain funding for our current safety measures, we will need to generate $1,750,000.00 annually for the next 8 years.
- How will this affect my property taxes?
  - Based on current assessment, the **<u>maximum</u>** amount to be levied over the eight-year period would be $0.10 per $100 of assessed property value. This would equate to $9.50 per month for a property valued at $250,000.

the city of NAPPANEE INDIANA

TOWN OF WAKARUSA ESTABLISHED IN