

# TAKING ACTION



File Photo

Students at all of Coventry's schools, like these at Feinstein Middle School, will be safer and in more secure buildings thanks to the district's action plan.

## Super says Coventry's action plan moving quickly

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COVENTRY – According to Coventry Superintendent Mike Almeida, the construction for the school district's action plan is moving at a quick pace.

"Everything is in the process," said Almeida, who has been very busy visiting all the schools in Coventry over the last few weeks to discuss safety measures with administration and teachers. "We've already been out to the schools to take measurements for the doors and are asking our current vendors to help us upgrade all our systems to be in accordance with our nine-point action plan."

This plan includes restructuring the front office entrance ways at the elementary schools and middle school to create a vestibule where visitors will have restricted access to the building while being checked-in to the school, improving the access to panic buttons which send immediate notification to police and fire departments, having identification badges for all employees, installing surveillance monitors in the front office at all schools so staff can identify visitors more clearly and monitors will record in color, a new intercom system will be installed at Western Elementary School, a new surveillance system will be installed at the High School because the high school has challenges due to its size and layout, lock-

down and evacuation procedures will be reviewed and revised as necessary, outside entry-way barriers we be strategically positioned at some schools to prevent vehicles from approaching front doors and all non-instructional areas such as the cafeteria, will be outfitted with locking doors.

The Superintendent's goal is to complete the upgrades in the most cost-effective manner possible.

"We're utilizing the same companies we already work with to provide the upgrades," he said. "The first thing we will see complete are the panic buttons," he said, "the next step we're working on is taking measurements for

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# Action plan is moving on time

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the doors, given the doors in all the schools are not uniform.”

These immediate efforts are in response to the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn.

Almeida wanted to reassure parents and students that these updates are being discussed and evaluated each day and are moving as quickly as the companies can get the work done.