



## PRESS RELEASE October 11, 2018

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### **SAFETY FURTHER ENHANCED WITH INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM IN DADE COUNTY SCHOOLS**

Dade County Superintendent, Dr. Jan Harris, announced today that a Press Conference will be held on Tuesday, October 16, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. at Dade County High School Auditorium to reveal the new *Incident Management System* in Dade County Schools.

In response to the needs of Dade County Schools, South Western Communications worked closely with Dade County Safety Personnel and created an *Incident Management System* that took an already well-designed, well-executed safety plan and used technology to drastically reduce response times in the event of a crisis.” Safety Director Josh Ingle noted, “The *Incident Management System* has daily functions that improve the communication throughout the individual schools and the entire district.”

In order to give Dade County Schools the technology tools needed to enhance and execute their safety plan, SWC integrated two systems into their schools, Telecenter and Sielox. Account Executive Pat Henley provided the following description of the new system:

**Telecenter’s Emergency Response** functions provide the ability, with the press of a button, to immediately deliver automated, pre-recorded critical notifications for a wide range of emergencies, whether for a lock-down or even a weather situation. The investment in Telecenter

not only allows for immediate notification in the event of an emergency but the ***Event Management & Everyday Communications*** functions give the schools the ability to customize bell schedules, create pre-recorded announcements, use music instead of tones and manage the daily schedule through the use of technology.

***Seilox CLASS (Crisis Lockdown Alert Status System)*** is a daily incident and crisis management solution that works with Telecenter to create the ***Incident Management System*** needed to reduce response time in the event of an emergency. Sielox CLASS reduces notification time to responders using chat and email alerts and provides instant visibility using dynamic floor plan maps. The System provides an event monitor in real time as well as an audit trail after an incident or crisis. Communications are enhanced through chat and email alerts to SRO's, School Principals, the District Office and especially to our first responders. The dynamic graphical map provides real-time status in each classroom when the teacher presses a button on his/her computer, phone or Ipad that changes the color of her room on the map to indicate what the situation is in the classroom.

EMA Director Alex Case worked closely with Dade County in the implementation of the system. He said, "Dade County has made a real investment in the safety of the staff and students in their schools." Dr. Harris noted, "It is impossible to place a dollar amount on the safety of our children, but it is possible to identify the cost of the technology implemented to assist in keeping our schools safe. The financial investment made by Dade County Schools for the design, installation, implementation and training needed to execute the use of the ***IMS (Incident Management System)*** provided by SWC, South Western Communications was \$160,211."

Dade County extends appreciation to Sheriff Ray Cross, Chief Christy Smith and law enforcement for their support in this effort. A special thank you is extended to Chief Deputy Tommy Bradford and team for writing and securing a Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant that will entirely cover the cost of this cutting-edge technology designed by Engineer Lee Haston. Board President Carolyn Bradford said, "There is nothing more important than the safety of our students and staff. This is, and always will be, our number one priority."

A demonstration of the system will be presented at the Press Conference.

Other Information: Dade County is pleased to have a School Resource Officer at each of our schools. We are proactively focusing on the needs of our students through positive behavior, character education and mentoring. Dade County is now a PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies) school district. A system-wide character education plan is in place. Students are mentored through organized clubs at the secondary level. Lookout Community Services provide mental health services to our families on an as-needed basis. Sielox is a partner with the Dade County Young Authors, a group of gifted writers who pen character quotes for all students.

***Incident Management System designed by SWC, South Western Communications***

***Account Engineer: Lee Haston***

***Account Manager: Pat Henley***