



Reunification Center

After Action Review

Bowie High School Shooting
April 24, 2024



Arlington ISD responders and the Arlington Police Department met on Thursday, May 9, 2024, to conduct an After Action Review following the Bowie High School shooting on April 24.

- The shooting left one student dead and another charged with murder.
- The student population at Bowie High School is 2,247.
- All students and staff were bused to a Reunification Center at the Arlington ISD Athletics Complex to reunite with their families.

What Went Well

- Set up of tables, chairs, computers, maps, etc. was fast
- Admin was helpful in answering parent questions, greeting parents, jumping in to help, etc. (early in the evening)
- There was a plan in place ahead of time
- The site/location is great
- Signs at the site were clear to parents
- Staff in orange vests stood out
- Spanish speakers were on hand
- Students responded well to the situation
- Thousands of students were reunited safely without a second incident
- Staff came together as a team
- The turnaround time to get water and food to the Center was excellent
- Stayed within industry standards for a Reunification Center (per APD: 6 hours for Lamar with 700 kids – 6 hours for 2,000 BHS students, 6 hours for Timberview. It's going to take 6-8 hours each time)
- Looks of relief on parent faces when they saw their kids
- Custodial team was awesome
- Security at the front door of Athletics Center was awesome

What to Improve

- Information was slow to get to Food Services, Health Services, etc.
- Line management – too many stops/checkpoints, not a first-come first-served line
- Radios didn't work
- Building location: Collins & Division at 5 pm with traffic and a Rangers game

- SPED kids – separate area for reunification recommended, remembering some SPED kids are on a regular schedule
- Not enough parking at location and parents went to QT instead of Lot 11
- Parents needed restrooms and to charge phones
- Parents needed information on why it was taking so long to get their kids
- Need for language translators
- Some kids were on campus that don't go to Bowie. How do we alert their families?
- Water distribution in the waiting line was inconsistent
- Need to limit how many people can come inside the Center to pick up kids. Way too crowded inside. Need outdoor "waiting area" for family.
- Weather concerns for people outside for long periods of time
- Need to add that student safety is most important as to why it's taking so long
- No defined roles for people managing outside of the Center
- Not everyone understands the whole Reunification process
- Admin staff didn't stay the whole time so as night wore on, less hands to help
- Need designated area for support staff to coordinate
- Not many teachers stayed to help with their kids
- Need to preassign admin staff to roles
- Need visual ID for workers, i.e. vests
- Need megaphone/microphone to make outdoor announcements
- APD: Who's in charge of Reunification Center? They didn't know
- Need clear chain of command communicated to APD's command
- Arlington ISD security needs to be assigned to APD command to help them with their needs
- Need designated Command Post on site
- Need more staff and more space
- Need answers on what to do with students who are 18-years of age or older, homeless students, etc.
- Need security pre-assigned to ensure proper crowd control outside
- Schools need to assign admin members for reunification once they arrive
- Site managers needed for each building used