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For Immediate Release

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Pueblo County Schools First in Nation to be “SchoolSAFE”

Pueblo, Colorado— Pueblo School District 70 School Officials can now communicate directly with first responders during an emergency. SchoolSAFE, the system that makes it possible, is an interoperability system that converts UHF (commonly referred to as walkie-talkies) broadcasts into a digital message that can be heard on the 800 MHz radios that responders carry. Activated by either a Pueblo County 9-1-1 officer or the district, the system allows the school reporting the emergency to give detailed information about the situation to the responders. Suspect information, specific location of the incident, and immediate update information can be relayed to those responders without the 9-1-1 operator acting as a relay point.

“In an incident where seconds save lives, having this direct communication has the potential to make a world of difference. Whether it is them giving us information we use to make tactical decisions during a critical event at the school or us advising them on a lockdown or shelter request when there is potential danger in their area, having this immediate notification means the students are safer, and so are the deputies.” says Sheriff Kirk Taylor.

Greg Keasling, Director of Student Services at the district is very impressed with the system. “As soon as we were introduced to this technology, we brought it down to Pueblo for a drill that we had last year. It was such a success that we immediately began searching for funding for the system. District 70 is the first school district in the entire world to implement the system district wide and our kids are safer for it.”

SchoolSAFE was funded by the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program, DHS’s Public Safety Interoperability Communications Grant Program, Pueblo County 9-1-1 Authority Board, and Pueblo School District 70.

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