



Emergency Info Guide FOR FAMILIES

What are the Responses to Different Types of School Emergencies?



SECURE PERIMETER (FORMERLY LOCKOUT)

A **secure perimeter** takes place when there is a safety concern that is not an immediate threat to a school. For example, the police may be pursuing a vehicle in the neighborhood around a school and a secure perimeter prevents anyone from entering or exiting the building.



SCHOOL LOCKDOWN

A **lockdown** takes place when there is a safety concern in a school. For example, the police may be pursuing a suspect on school property. In the event of a lockdown, remember, "Lock, Lights, Out of Sight."



SHELTER-IN-PLACE

Shelter-in-place is when students and staff take shelter in a safe space in the school, such as a classroom or hallway. This occurs when there is a hazard, such as a tornado or a severe weather warning.



SCHOOL HOLD

Hold is when students must remain in their classrooms for safety. For example, a fight in the hallways may require keeping students out of the halls until it is resolved.



EVACUATION

An **evacuation** is when students are sent outside of the school building to prevent harm or injury due to a hazardous situation inside of the school, such as a fire.

DO'S AND DON'TS IN AN EMERGENCY OR CRISIS:

DO check your email and text messages. DPS utilizes SchoolMessenger in an emergency.

DO wait for communication of arrival and release times if a crisis or emergency coincides with the start or end of school.

DON'T come to your child's school unless notified to do so. This could create traffic congestion and get in the way of emergency personnel.

DON'T call your child or your child's school. Excessive phone calls could jam the phone system and interfere with emergency communications.



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Be Prepared

- Visit the Parent Portal (myportal.dpsk12.org) to ensure that you are set up to receive emergency notifications and that your child's emergency contact information is up to date.
- Also within the Parent Portal, please verify the primary guardian on your child's record, as they are the only one that a child can be released to in the event of an emergency that requires a pick-up.
- Ensure that your child's school has updated emergency contact information.
- Reach out to your school leader to learn how your child's school communicates during an emergency and what school-specific emergency procedures are in place.
- Talk to your children about school emergency procedures so they know what to expect.



Talking to Children About Violence: Tips for Parents and Teachers

High profile acts of violence, particularly in schools, can confuse and frighten children who may feel in danger or worry that their friends or loved ones are at risk. They will look to adults for information and guidance on how to react. Parents and school personnel can help children feel safe by establishing a sense of normalcy and security and talking with them about their fears.

1. Reassure children that they are safe. Emphasize that schools are very safe. Validate their feelings. Explain that all feelings are okay when a tragedy occurs. Let children talk about their feelings, help put them into perspective, and assist them in expressing these feelings appropriately.
2. Make time to talk. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide. Be patient; children and youth do not always talk about their feelings readily. Watch for clues that they may want to talk, such as hovering around while you do the dishes or yard work. Some children prefer writing, playing music, or doing an art project as an outlet. Young children may need concrete activities (such as drawing, looking at picture books, or imaginative play) to help them identify and express their feelings.

Excerpted from a National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) tip sheet. View a full list of tips at safety.dpsk12.org