

## What should parents do during a school emergency?

In an emergency situation, our schools' first priority is the safety and security of students and staff. To ensure their safety, our schools follow the district's established safety procedures. We understand it is natural for parents to want to call or visit the school, but that can hinder school staff and emergency personnel as they address emergency situations.

### Instead, here are some things parents can do during an emergency.

- **Watch for updates from official district sources:** The district will share information as quickly as possible using a variety of tools including texts, emails, the district's website and local media. If you don't receive district texts, contact your child's school and make sure your contact information in PowerSchool is current.
- **Be patient:** The first few minutes of an emergency situation can be chaotic. It can take a little time to collect reliable information. As soon as that information is available, the district will share it with parents.
- **Be wary of social media reports:** Information about emergency situations posted on social media is often wrong. Please rely on official district or law enforcement sources and their official social media sites for information. Be aware that a new Idaho law allows for the prosecution of those who spread false or inflammatory information using social media.
- **Keep communications with your child short:** Calling or texting a child during an emergency may prevent them from hearing important, life-saving information. Keep any exchanges short. Before an emergency, talk to your child about what kind of information is helpful to share in those situations. For example, "I am safe" or "We are being evacuated."
- **Questions?** If you have concerns about how a situation was handled, take time afterward to share your concerns with school or district officials. We are always working to improve our procedures to enhance the safety and security of our students and staff.

## What can you do to help make our schools safer?

Creating safer schools in D91 is our priority, but it takes a community effort to keep students and staff safe. Here are some things you can do to help make our schools safer for all students and staff.

- **Follow school rules:** We love parents and patrons to visit schools but we ask all visitors to check in at the office and get an official badge so school officials know who is in the building at all times. It also makes it easier for students and staff to make sure everyone in the building is authorized to be there.
- **Be involved:** Research shows parent involvement can make a big difference in a child's school life. Get involved by regularly reviewing your child's homework, attending school functions and talking to his/her teachers when issues arise.
- **Stay connected with your child:** Get to know your children's friends. Talk to them about what they're doing and where they are going. Monitor what your children and their friends are doing online and on social media.
- **Notify school officials if you have safety concerns:** If you see or hear anything that raises concerns in or around our schools, notify school or local law enforcement officials. Encourage your child and their friends to share any safety concern with school officials or trusted adults. Schools usually have some kind of reporting system for safety concerns.



# SCHOOL SAFETY PROTOCOLS

Please join our efforts to create safer schools in Idaho Falls School District 91



Idaho Falls  
School District 91  
*A World Class Education*

[www.ifschools.org](http://www.ifschools.org)

## Idaho Falls School District 91 works to create safer schools by focusing on three areas:

- **School Culture:** We are committed to building strong relationships with all our students so they feel safe and included in school. Our schools set common expectations. We encourage students to advocate for themselves and each other by sharing what they see and hear in their schools.
- **Visible Signs of Safety:** We are investing in securing our schools with more security cameras, controlled access systems, badges for all school visitors and remodeled school entrances to limit access.
- **Safety Plans:** We are updating our plans to prepare students and staff in the event of an emergency situation. These plans are developed in consultation with local, state and federal authorities. They are regularly reviewed and improved to provide for the safety of students and staff.

Schools are required to conduct different kinds of emergency drills several times a year to ensure staff and students are prepared in case of an emergency. Sometimes the drills are held in conjunction with local emergency services personnel so don't be alarmed if you see a police car or a fire truck at a school.

Here is an overview of the different kinds of drills we conduct and what happens during those drills. ***D91 now notifies parents when schools conduct those drills.***



### EVACUATION TO ANNOUNCED LOCATION

#### STUDENTS

- Bring your phone
- Leave your stuff behind
- Follow instructions

#### TEACHERS

- Lead evacuation to location
- Take attendance
- Notify if missing, extra or injured students



### REVERSE EVACUATION GATHER TO THE SCHOOL

#### STUDENTS

- Quickly move into building
- Elementary - go to home room
- Secondary - go to next class period

#### TEACHERS

- Quickly move into building
- Help students return to building
- Notify if missing, extra or injured students



### SHELTER IN PLACE HAZARD AND SAFETY STRATEGY

*Hazards include tornado, hazmat, earthquake, and severe storms*

#### STUDENTS

- Evacuate to shelter area
- Seal the room
- Drop, cover and hold
- Get to high ground

#### TEACHERS

- Lead safety strategy
- Take attendance



### HALL CHECK GET INSIDE, LOCK OUTSIDE DOORS

#### STUDENTS

- Return to or remain in classrooms
- Business as usual

#### TEACHERS

- Bring everyone indoors
- Lock perimeter doors
- Increase situational awareness
- Take attendance
- Business as usual



### LOCK DOWN LOCKS, LIGHTS, OUT OF SIGHT

#### STUDENTS

- Move out of sight
- Maintain silence
- DO NOT open the door

#### TEACHERS

- Lock interior doors
- Turn out the lights
- Move out of sight
- DO NOT open the door
- Maintain silence
- Take attendance



### REUNIFICATION REUNITE STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

*Maintain the chain of custody for every student during and after an event that requires an evacuation.*

#### STUDENTS

- Stay with advisor or teacher
- Follow directions from faculty and staff

#### TEACHERS

- Go with students to evacuation site
- Stay with your students until reunification