



# **School Safety and Security in the Issaquah School District**



**ISSAQUAH**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT 411**

**Schools are among the safest places to be on a day-to-day basis, according to all statistical evidence available.** In the Issaquah School District, we strive to be proactive regarding all facets of safety and invite you to be our partners in ensuring a safe learning environment. Schools are among the safest places to be on a day-to-day basis, according to all statistical evidence available. In the Issaquah School District, we strive to be proactive regarding all facets of safety and invite you to be our partners in ensuring a safe learning environment.

*Please note: All of our safety plans and protocols are not made public. Access is limited to first responders and District staff.* However, some of the key elements of Issaquah School District's preparedness plans are outlined below. We hope it will answer questions you have concerning actions and intentions of the ISD in the event of an emergency. We also encourage you to visit and bookmark our [District Safety Web Page](#) for more information.

To be consistent across the Issaquah School District, we have developed the following list of terms to use in emergency situations. Please familiarize yourself with these terms:

- **Lockdown**  
Occupants are kept in rooms or areas that are secured. No one is allowed to enter the building.
- **Modified Lockdown**  
There is police activity or a potential danger in the vicinity, such as a wild animal nearby. Instruction continues safe inside a secure building. Occupants remain in the classroom/building and movement within the building is at the principal's discretion. No one is allowed to enter the building.
- **Reunification Site**  
Place where students are transported or assigned to meet at due to unsafe conditions at the school site.
- **Student Release Area**  
Location at the reunification site where parents may pick up students.
- **Evacuation**  
All persons exit the building.
- **Reverse Evacuation**  
Students return from outside to the safety of the school.
- **Drill**  
The practice of a specific safety circumstance designed to prepare staff and students to act quickly and minimize questions and fears should an emergency take place.
- **School Resource Officer (SRO)**  
Uniformed police department officers assigned to schools to help build and maintain relationships between police, students, families, staff, and administrators.
- **School Security Officers (SSO)**  
Trained security personnel on duty at all high schools.

In the event of a crisis situation, please be assured that all of our schools have an emergency management plan in place and that school, district, and emergency staff will respond accordingly. We need your support and ask that you rely on communications from the school district.







## Before an Emergency:

- Ensure the emergency contact information in [Family Access](#) is accurate and current, including who is authorize to pick up your child
- Explain to your child that cell phones *should not* be used during an emergency unless directed by a teacher, administrator, or emergency personnel.
  - *Please refrain from calling your student. Sound, vibration, or conversation could draw attention to your child's location. Students also need to be paying attention to instructions from their teachers and trained personnel.*

## Communication During an Emergency:

*Remember: Our staff is trained to protect students and manage the situation in a building first and then communicate with the District office. Information will be sent out from the District as soon as possible once we are certain we have accurate information to share.*

- The first and official way for us to contact you in an emergency is using our Blackboard Notification system via email and in some situations text and/or phone call.
- We will use multiple channels to provide you with accurate and timely information.
  - District website ([www.issaquah.wednet.edu](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu))
  - Phone call
  - Email
  - Text message, if opted in
  - ISD Mobile App, if downloaded
  - District social media
    - Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IssaquahSchools/>)
    - Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IssaquahSchools>)
  - If necessary, local news media will be contacted and will be asked to help broadcast important information

## During an Emergency:

- Trust that emergency personnel and staff are doing everything to protect your child first, then we will communicate with you.
- Please listen to messages we leave on your voice mail. Our phone system is often flooded with calls from parents who have not listened to the message.
- Please do not call the school. In a crisis situation, school phones lines must remain open to manage the situation.
- Please do not call or text your child. If a ringer is on, your call could give away their hiding spot or distract them from receiving instructions.
- Please do not come to the school. No one will be allowed on campus during an emergency. Emergency personnel responding to the situation need the area clear to do their job. After emergency responders determine that a safe student release is possible, arrangements will be made to reunite children with their families.

## After an Emergency:

- Parents/Guardians will be directed to the reunification site. Photo identification is required for release of students.
- Students will only be released to a parent/guardian and/or other adults listed on the student's Emergency Information Form, which you filled out at the beginning of the school year. The individual picking up a student will be asked to complete a Student Release Form (given on-site). This procedure is designed for your child's protection and for your peace of mind.
- Please be aware that reunification can be time consuming and your patience will be appreciated.
- It is important to remain calm as children are greatly influenced by their family's sense of well-being, and anything that families can do to reassure students will be helpful. At the same time, families need to be compassionate listeners when their children speak of the crisis. Seek help from the school, District, or community resources if you or your child have concerns.

## **District Resources:**

Issaquah School District Safety Webpage:  
<https://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/safety>

### **General Contacts:**

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### **Counseling Support:**

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