



School Safety Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

How does the district plan for emergencies?

- All of our schools have safety plans and conduct practice drills regularly (including Fire Drills, Earthquake Drills and Lock Downs).
- We have an Emergency Operations Team at the District Office who is trained and strategically assigned responsibilities in order to prevent incidents before they occur and/or respond immediately when safety is jeopardized.
- FMSD works closely with the San Jose Police Department who provides a School Liaison Officer for our schools.
- Our Emergency Operations Team (Directors and Principals and District Office Administration) work together to align drills, enhance communication and plan/participate in training.
- Partner with the San Jose Police Department and the San Jose Fire Department
- Strategies exist at all schools to limit access during the school day, required sign-in and sign-out procedures and structure protocols for visitor access

Are we prepared for a rapid response to an emergency?

In addition to the daily resources and planning noted above, our strong relationship with the San Jose Police Department is essential to our response planning. The San Jose Police Department is very timely in their response to a school emergency.

What are the current Security and Crisis Response Procedures during the event of a violent intruder? Are these procedures co-developed with local law enforcement?

Detailed in each school's safety plan are procedures during the event of a violent intruder. Our procedures are in alignment with local law enforcement guidelines and reviewed annually for modifications based on the latest recommendations for school safety.

LOCKDOWN (RED)

For Active Shooters or Nearby Police Action

- Immediately get inside a securable room or run away from danger.
- If you must depart the campus because of immediate danger and school staff is not available to give direction, go to a public place and call the police department. Give them your location and name.
- If inside, lock and close all room doors. If applicable, activate the second lock.
- If you're in an open work area or cubicle, find a lockable room or crawl under a desk.
- If possible, move to an area of the room where the range of gunfire is reduced. Stay low to the ground.
- Close the shades or cover the windows with paper.
- Turn off all lights.
- Keep quiet and avoid making unnecessary noises.
- Once the threat is over, law enforcement or administration will be clearing the campus and going room to room to evacuate or give an "all clear".
- If you must defend your area, use the fire extinguisher as a weapon to neutralize the intruder.
- Inform Emergency Personnel as soon as possible for any medical issues or injuries to you or others.

What are the responsibilities of a parent, in the occurrence of a security situation? How are these responsibilities being communicated to parents?

Parents and legal guardians of students will be provided with a Student Health/Emergency Form each year. In case of a Declared Emergency, students will be released ONLY to persons designated on this



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PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

form. Parents are responsible for ensuring that information on the Student Health/Enrollment Form is current at all times.

In case of a declared emergency by the Superintendent during school hours, all students will be required to remain at school or at an alternate safe site under the supervision of the school principal or other personnel assigned by the Principal.

Parents are asked to share with the schools the responsibility for informing students of what they should do in case of a severe earthquake or other major emergency. Parents need to give specific directions to each student to follow the school safety policies and to follow the directions of school personnel.

School authorities will do everything possible to care for each student while he/she is under district supervision. It is critical that students do not have directions from parents that are contrary to the district's stated policy on retention at school and authorized release in case of a severe emergency.

Are we adequately controlling access to our campuses?

This is one of the most common areas of concern and challenges us to balance the expectation of secure campuses with the goal of family and community engagement and shared facility use. We are assertive in addressing campus access in the following ways:

- All campuses have gated perimeters that restrict access to our campuses
- Once school has started, the perimeter and exterior access points are closed and access is limited to the main office/entry point at our schools
- All schools have structured sign-in and sign out procedures for visitors and guests to ensure that staff and student have a visual indicator (badges and name tags) that authorizes presence on campus
- All schools have lock down procedures and practice lock down drills with staff and students
- Communication is key to limiting campus access:
 - All schools have radio communication resources and/or other processes for internal communication.

What about access points after school? With so many schools offering many after school activities, access seems to be compromised?

Our schools do offer many great after school opportunities and our preparation must be as intentional after school as it is during school. Certainly, this is a challenge with parent programs, partnerships and clubs, and our space being accessed by our various community groups. Again the key is close monitoring, communication systems, adequate supervision, and limiting access points. All of our schools have safety plans and the response plans remain the same for after school. During after school hours, there is only one access point to enter/exit schools.

Have there been any additional steps taken recently to enhance safety?

- Additional training on Emergency Preparedness and Threat Assessment for staff
- Assertive action at school sites - team meetings to review procedures, meetings with staff and parents to solicit feedback and address concerns; enhanced lock down drills, purposeful



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communication with staff, students, families; affirmation of check-in procedures, visitor sign-in and staff badges

What about future planning? What else can be done?

- Site Access/Safety assessment/walk-through exercises with law enforcement and our facility team. We are reviewing/evaluating campus needs and prepared to take appropriate action.
- We are evaluating and identifying options for Enhanced "First Responder" training for all site/department leaders (partnering again with San Jose Police Department)
- Exploring various options and partnerships to provide mentoring for students in need of adult support

There is a great deal of talk about mental health and school safety. What are we doing to protect the social and emotional well-being of students?

Caring for the whole child is essential to providing kind and safe learning environments. Teaching, modeling, and expecting positive, respectful behavior is evident in our policies, practices and programs. Establishing high expectations and accountability is critical to safety; as is positive, timely, caring and compassionate intervention and support for students who struggle socially or emotionally. FMSD is fortunate to have strong support systems for our student's healthy growth and development.

- Community Based Organizations that provide counseling and other support services to students and families on our campuses
- Individual schools have developed anti-bullying campaigns as well as interventions that support the social-emotional needs of students.
- Dedicated Guidance Counselors at the Middle Schools providing social, emotional and academic support and intervention
- District Social Workers: Work with Students and Training Staff in Positive Behavior Systems
- School Based Student Study Teams: Intervention Teams (made up of teachers, school psychologists, administration, special education staff) for Students who are struggling in school (socially, emotionally and behaviorally)

For more information on your child's school safety plan, please go to:

<https://www.fmsd.org/apps/pages/safety>