

# Safety and Wellness



## FIRE ALARMS, LOCK-DOWNS AND EVACUATIONS

Each school maintains detailed plans for dealing with emergency situations and has excellent communication with local law enforcement agencies. Schools participate in monthly fire drills and/or school-wide lockdown drills.

### FIRE DRILLS

Fire drills occur monthly at each school. When the FIRE ALARM sounds, students should evacuate the building in an orderly, quiet manner and follow the instructions of staff members in charge. Students should not stand on paved areas where emergency vehicles may need to pass. Students reporting and/or creating false fire alarms will be subject to disciplinary action from administration and referral to Maricopa Police Department.

### LOCKDOWN DRILLS

Lockdown drills are essential in case there is some kind of danger that would require students to be in their classroom and protected from any problems. A lockdown drill means that all students remain in the classroom with their teacher with the classroom door locked. No person (adult or child) will be able to walk the campus unless escorted by a designated school employee. It is very important that all students remain quiet in order to hear important directions.

## CHILD ABUSE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The duty to protect children from child abuse, sexual abuse, and neglect is one that is incumbent on every school district employee. The following guidelines are designated to clarify what these new obligations are.

*A.R.S. 13-3620* provides that anyone who “reasonably believes” that a minor is or has been the victim of physical injury, abuse, and child abuse, reportable offense or neglect that has been inflicted on the minor by other than accidental means or that is not explained by the available medical history as being accidental in nature shall immediately report or cause reports to be made of this information to a peace officer or to Child Protective Services at the Department of Child Safety. This means that if a school employee hears a rumor, overhears a conversation or by any other means, becomes aware that a child may be the subject of physical injury, sexual abuse, or neglect, that employee has an obligation to report. It is not necessary to have visual or actual evidence of abuse to trigger the reporting requirement. Staff is bound by law to not discuss or share any information to any person unless specifically authorized by applicable law or court order.