



September 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians:

The safety of all our children, school staff, and support personnel is very important to us. In order to maintain a safe environment for our school community, it is necessary that we practice our emergency and crisis response plans by having drills designed to exercise our procedures.

To assist our students and staff in understanding and knowing what to do in case of various emergencies, we will continue to practice a variety of safety drills this school year. Some of these drills are conducted monthly and some may only be conducted once or a few times during the year. We believe that by establishing, communicating, and then practicing the plans, we will be able to manage difficult situations more effectively. Some of the drills are announced to staff and students ahead of time, while others are not announced until the time that they will take place.

It is our hope that informing you about the primary types of emergency drills will assist you in being prepared to discuss these situations with your child if the topic arises at home.

A brief description of the major types of drills follows:

FIRE DRILLS

As required by the Pennsylvania School Code and the Fire Code, each school building will conduct a monthly fire drill. During a fire drill, students and staff evacuate the building when the fire alarm is activated and report to a predetermined site outside the building.

EVACUATION DRILLS

During an evacuation drill, students and staff will leave the building and will be safely escorted along a designated evacuation route to a predetermined evacuation site. At the conclusion of the drill, everyone will safely return to their classrooms.

If your child rides the school bus, they will also be required to participate in two bus evacuation drills during the school year.

SAFETY SCENARIO DRILLS

During the safety scenario drills, staff and students stop their normal activities for approximately 10-15 minutes, at a specified day and time, to verbally review what actions would be taken based on a predetermined emergency scenario. These drills are conducted to give staff and students time to discuss procedures and ask questions in a low-risk environment.

LOCKDOWN DRILLS

The purpose of these drills is to keep staff and students safe from any danger outside or inside the buildings by limiting movement. Based on the situation, these drills could range from a “*keep out*,” where a threat outside of the building requires the denial of individuals into the building; to a “*stay put*,” where staff and students must remain in their classrooms due to a medical emergency or locker search; to a “*lock down*,” where protective actions need to be taken due to an imminent threat to those in and around the building.

SEVERE WEATHER DRILLS

The purpose of the severe weather drill is to prepare staff and students to move to a safe location within the building in case of a severe weather event, such as a storm with hurricane-like winds.

District staff have prepared a *School Emergency Guide for Parents* that contains additional information about our safety procedures and guidelines to follow in the event of an emergency. This guide can be found on the district website under [Emergency Information](#). For everyone’s safety during both drills and true emergencies, it is crucial to follow the specific directions being given and to rely on official communications from the school district.

Please remember that these safety drills are conducted to practice procedures and gather feedback for improvement. Establishing and maintaining safety protocols help make our schools safe places to learn and work.

In the event of an emergency situation, it is imperative that we have up-to-date parent/guardian contact information, as well as emergency contact information, for your child. Please report any change of name, address, or telephone number to the main office of the building that your child attends.

If you have questions regarding these safety drills or other safety concerns, please contact your child’s school office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Estep

Good planning will facilitate a rapid, coordinated, and effective response when a crisis occurs.

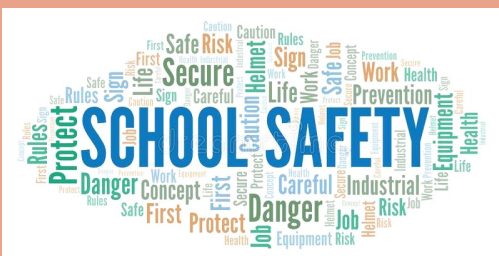
Throughout the school year, students will be taught how to react in an emergency.

This will be accomplished through:

- Classroom discussions of various emergency scenarios.
- Fire Drills & Evacuations.
- Severe weather drills.

Preventative Measures:

- On-campus school police
- 24/7 Safe2Say Something Reporting System safe2saypa.org; 1-844-SAFE2SAY (1-844-723-2729)
- Coordination with state and local police
- Metal detectors & bag searches (occasional)
- Drug-sniffing dogs (occasional)



Ensuring that our schools are safe is everyone’s responsibility!

Tyrone Area School District is committed to the safety of our students. The staff at TASD works with public safety providers to maintain a safe environment through:

- Crisis Training for administration and staff.
- Development of a multi-hazard plan modeled from (NIMS) National Incident Management System.

This School Emergency Guide for Parents was created to help you better understand your important role in our Safe School Plans.

Open communication between home and school is critical to the safety and well-being of our students and your child(ren).

If you have concerns or questions about school policies or your child(ren)’s safety, you can contact the Superintendent’s Office via phone: (814) 684-0710 ext. 4123 or email: safety@tyrone.k12.pa.us.

Tyrone Area School District
701 Clay Avenue
Tyrone, PA 16686
(814)684-0710
www.tyrone.k12.pa.us

Soaring Forward to Explore, Challenge, and Succeed!

It is the policy of the Tyrone Area School District not to discriminate on the basis of gender, handicap, race and national origin in its educational and vocational programs, activities, or employment as required by Title IX, Section 504, and Title VI. Please direct questions about this policy to Leslie Estep, Superintendent of Schools, at 814.684.0710, Extension 4123.



TASD

School Emergency Guide for Parents



The purpose of this guide is to provide basic information to parents on how their cooperation and assistance will aid the District and their children during a crisis.

Simple steps you can take to prepare for a school emergency:

1. Communication is vital in any type of emergency. Please update contact information with the offices, as needed. For example, a change in your work telephone number should be reported to the school office.

Individuals listed as *Emergency Contacts* should:

- Be responsible.
 - Be aware that they are listed as an emergency contact and be willing to accept this responsibility.
 - Be easily contacted during the day.
 - Have transportation to pick up your child(ren) at the school, if necessary.
 - Be known by your child(ren).
2. School Emergency Information for parents is located in this brochure. Keep this information with you in case of an emergency.
 3. Talk with your child(ren) about listening and following directions during an emergency. Also discuss the emergency training that is provided at school; give your support by stressing its importance; and encourage cooperation with school staff members, both in practice drills and in the event of a real emergency.

School Emergency Responses

STAY PUT! Students and staff will stay in their classrooms and conduct “business as usual.” This could occur due to a medical emergency, safety drill, or to clear the hallway.

KEEP OUT! Students will return from outdoor activities, doors locked, and outsiders will not be able to get into the building. This could occur because of an emergency happening in the community in the area of the school.

LOCKDOWN! Students and staff will lock doors, turn lights out, and stay out of sight. Staff and students will listen for further instructions. This could be activated due to a threat inside of the school.

EVACUATE! Students and staff will leave the building because it is unsafe to stay in the building. This could occur due to a fire, gas leak, or other safety concern.

SHELTER IN PLACE! Students and staff will move to interior rooms in the building. A severe weather event or outside air contamination could cause implementation of this action.

HOLD STUDENTS! This will only occur if there is an emergency in the community and we are unable to send students home. This could affect all students or only students from a certain geographic area.

Student Dismissal/ Parent Reunification Procedures

School officials will notify parents if and where students have been relocated and will provide information for picking up child(ren). Students will only be released to parent/guardian or adults listed as Emergency Contacts. The adult must have a picture ID, for verification purposes, when picking up student(s).

Important things to remember during a school emergency:

What you **SHOULD** do:

- Review the information in this brochure.
- Wait for **official** information and instructions from the District.
- Report to the designated area to pick up your child(ren) easily, if necessary.

Please **DO NOT**:

- Come to the school unless you are asked to do so. This may impede first responders trying to help.
- Use social media to spread rumors about an event or threat.
- Call or text your student during an active drill when they are trying to follow school emergency directives.

Where to turn for information during an emergency:

In an emergency, every effort will be made to keep parents informed so they understand the situation and what is being done in response. Families will receive information and instructions from these listed communication sources:

District Messaging System

Wait for notification from the District Messaging System. You will receive information and instructions on what to do during an emergency. Please remember that information can sometimes be limited or delayed in an emergency.

Website & Facebook

Visit our Website: www.tyrone.k12.pa.us
Visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/TyroneASD

Local TV and Radio Stations

Tune in to local TV and radio stations for news alerts, if necessary.