

Parents and School Safety

SCHOOLS ARE SAFE PLACES

Principals, teachers, and other school staff work closely with public safety officials to ensure that all children are safe at school. All schools have detailed emergency plans (The Big Five), and school employees are trained in these protocols.

YOUR COOPERATION IS NECESSARY IN ANY EMERGENCY

Learn your school's student-parent reunification plan as well as the school's parental notification methods. To best support your child's safety in a school emergency, remain calm and follow the plan.

OPEN COMMUNICATION IS CRITICAL

Open communication between home and school is critical to the safety and well-being of our students and your children. If you have any questions about school safety policies, please contact your child's teacher or school principal.

TALK WITH YOUR CHILDREN

Be sure to talk with your children about school emergency response plans and review "The Big Five" periodically. Teach your children to follow the lead of school staff in the event of an emergency.

THE BIG FIVE

(Detailed information is included on the back)



LEARN THE BIG FIVE: *SAN MATEO COUNTY SCHOOLS*

When an emergency occurs, it is critical for parents to understand “**The Big Five**,” the five immediate action responses in any school emergency.



Shelter in Place is the response to an environmental hazard, like smoke in the air, a chemical spill, or even wildlife on campus. Students remain indoors with windows closed and air conditioning/heating units shut down.



Drop, Cover, and Hold On is how students respond during an earthquake or explosion to protect themselves from flying and falling debris.



Secure Campus is the response to a **potential** threat of danger in the surrounding community. All staff and students remain indoors with all doors locked, and instruction will continue as site leaders monitor the situation.



Lockdown/Barricade is the response to an **immediate** threat of violence to students and staff on campus. All staff and students remain indoors with all doors locked and barricaded, lights off, and blinds closed. All teaching/learning will stop as staff focuses entirely on the emergency at hand. No one is allowed to enter or exit rooms for any reason unless directed by law enforcement.



Evacuation happens when it is safer to be outside the building or off-site than inside or on-site. Students and staff will evacuate the school building to a pre-determined safe location.