



DISTRICT 20 PARENT GUIDANCE FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

This guidance is intended to inform parents and guardians of their role in the event of an emergency situation impacting our students, staff and/or school buildings. For additional safety information, please visit our website:

<https://www.esd20.org/for-parents/d20-safety>

It is important that you maintain current contact information with your school so that you can be notified of emergency situations via ParentSquare safety alerts (text, phone and email). Please update your phone, email, and emergency contacts in Skyward or ParentSquare. Your school office can assist you if needed.

SECURE

“Get Inside. Lock Outside Doors.”

Secure is activated when a potentially dangerous situation is outside the school building. Students and staff are brought inside the building, and all outside doors will be locked. The school may display the *School is Secured* poster on entry doors or nearby windows. Inside, it will be business as usual.

 **SCHOOL IS SECURED**
NO ONE IN OR OUT



ESCUELA BAJO PROTECCIÓN
NADIE PUEDE ENTRAR

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO SCHOOL OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OR THEIR CHILD DURING A SECURE SITUATION?

No. Every effort is made to continue the normal school day as much as possible during a Secure situation. Depending on the incident, parents may be asked to stay outside the building until “All Clear” is announced.

We ask that parents wait for updates via ParentSquare rather than coming to the school or contacting the main office or your child by call or text. This helps to keep your child safe during an active emergency situation.

WHAT IF PARENTS NEED TO PICK UP THEIR CHILD?

Depending on the situation, it may not be safe to release the student, even to parents/guardians. As the situation evolves and we learn more from our first responders, the Secure protocols may be modified to *Monitored Entry* and/or *Controlled Release*. Please be patient while we make those decisions with law enforcement.

WILL PARENTS BE NOTIFIED WHEN SCHOOL GOES INTO SECURE?

When a Secure situation is brief or the hazard is minor or non-violent, such as an animal loose on the playground, there may not be a need to notify parents while the Secure is in place. With longer or more potentially hazardous events, the school or district will notify

parents based on the information available at the time. Updates will be provided as promptly as possible.

LOCKDOWN

“Locks, Lights, Out of Sight.”



A Lockdown is only activated when there is a threat inside or very close to the school building. Students and staff are trained to enter or remain inside a room that can be locked, and to maintain silence.

SHOULD PARENTS COME TO SCHOOL OR CONTACT THE SCHOOL OR THEIR CHILD DURING A LOCKDOWN?

No. The natural inclination for parents is to go to the school, call the main office, or contact their child during a Lockdown. This is understandable, but may alert the offender, cause confusion, distract your child from following important safety instructions, tie-up the phone lines, or otherwise interfere with the ability of law enforcement to respond effectively.

District 20 recognizes the importance of communication between parents and their children in an emergency situation. Parents should be aware that it may not be safe for students to call or text their parents during an incident. As the situation resolves, students may be asked to update their parents. For example, in some cases students may be evacuated and transported to an off-site location for student-parent reunification.

If there is a threat inside the building, law enforcement will be responding. It is unlikely that parents will be granted access to the building, or even on the campus. Parents or other visitors who are already in the school will be instructed to Lockdown as well.

WHAT ABOUT SAFETY DRILLS?

All District 20 schools conduct safety drills throughout the school year. Drills will be announced to staff and students so that they do not cause undue concern and stress.

 **DRILL IN PROGRESS**
NO ONE IN OR OUT



SIMULACRO EN CURSO
NO SE PERMITE LA ENTRADA O SALIDA DE NADIE

It is important to differentiate between a drill and an exercise. A drill is used to create the “muscle memory” associated with a practiced action. There is no simulation of an event, it is simply performing the action. An exercise simulates an actual event to test the capacity of personnel and equipment. Please contact your school if you have any questions about safety drills.