

CUSD School Emergency Protocols (for Parents and Guardians)

[video transcript]

In order to maintain a safe and secure learning environment for all of our students, Chandler Unified administrators have worked in conjunction with emergency responders to establish policies and procedures that will be implemented during emergency situations. How efficient and successful district safety methods are depends greatly on you. As parents of CUSD students, you are our partners in student safety. So it's very important for you to be familiar with safety protocols and the ways our district leaders communicate during emergency situations. The better prepared we all are ahead of time will result in better outcomes when the unexpected happens.

There are a few simple things parents need to do to help our district efficiently deal with emergencies. To begin with make sure the emergency contact information for your children is up-to-date and on file at their schools. This includes all phone numbers and email information for individuals who may accept responsibility for your children during a crisis situation. Updating contact information can be completed online during the annual registration or enrollment process. If you need to update information any other time during the school year, please check with your school receptionist.

This emergency contact information is very important. In the event students need to be picked up from school or from another off-site location, they can only be released to those people listed as emergency contacts. In addition to current contact information, please make sure your students' medical information is accurate, complete and on file at their school. This information is available to school nurses throughout the year, but it may also be critical to first responders during an emergency.

In case of a school emergency, district personnel will notify parents by text message and email. Communications will include initial notifications, updates and any actions required by you. Please note that your source for the most accurate and timely information will be these emails and text messages sent by CUSD. Please do not rely on social media posts as an accurate source of information regarding any school emergency or incident.

As a parent, it's understandable that your first reaction upon hearing of an emergency at your child's school might be to either call or drive to the school. Please do not do either of these things. Calling the school ties up phone lines that may be needed to communicate with first responders and district personnel. And driving to the school may create barriers for emergency responders and jeopardize the safety of others and yourself. Please stand by your phone and wait for official district information about the emergency and instructions should anything be required of you.

The well-being of CUSD students is paramount, and schools have procedures in place to manage unforeseen and potentially hazardous situations. These include school lock-downs and

evacuations... and district personnel are always prepared to safely deliver food and water to students when routines and schedules are unexpectedly interrupted.

Depending on the type of emergency, it may be necessary for students to be bussed by the district to an alternate location where they can be safely reunited with their families. District personnel will communicate the alternate location and all transportation updates via text and email. The reunification procedure takes time and requires patience on the parts of both parents and school officials. The process is designed to ensure that students are released only to parents or those individuals listed as an emergency contact... and it works like this.

During a reunification event, lines are set up at a designated area of the alternative pickup site. Here, parents, or their authorized emergency contacts, can request to pick up a student. Please be aware that anyone picking up a student, whether the parent or an emergency contact, must present an official photo ID to pick up a student. If your emergency contact will be picking up your child, please relay to them the requirement of presenting official photo identification. No student will be released to anyone without an official photo ID.

When necessary, your understanding and adherence to Chandler Unified's emergency protocols will help ensure the safety of your children as well as school faculty and staff. Thank you for your attention. Let's work together to make this a safe and successful year for all students.