



Pocono Mountain School District

PO Box 200 • Swiftwater, Pa 18370 • 570-839-7121

Elizabeth M. Robison, Ph.D.

Superintendent of Schools

erobison@pmsd.org

Fax: 570-895-4768

August 25, 2025

Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the start of a new school year, I wanted to provide parents with an update on our school safety procedures throughout the district. In response to a safety concern that arose during metal detector screenings toward the end of last school year, we have carefully evaluated all of the school safety measures in place in our schools. We expanded and adjusted some of our safety measures based on advice from our law enforcement partners. Also, a new capability we were already in the process of bringing online toward the end of the school year is now fully operational. This new school safety layer provides continuous monitoring and weapon detection capability at all times, on all our campuses, and in all schools.

Also, throughout the school year, you may hear your children talk about fire evacuation drills, lockdown drills and Run, Hide, Fight. These are some of the training drills we hold in our school to prepare students and staff for many types of emergencies. While we have many preventative safety and security measures in place in our schools to prevent acts of violence, it's important that our students and staff practice lockdown drills and Run, Hide, Fight drills, so they would know how to respond to such an occurrence.

All of the training drills and preventive measures we take throughout the school year are part of the District's comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan for All Hazards, which outlines the procedures for all District employees to follow to keep Pocono Mountain students and schools safe. The plan is confidential, and it includes procedures and easy-to-follow checklists for District employees and students to follow during emergencies.

As part of the District's emergency preparedness procedures, all District schools practice lockdown drills. When a school is placed in a lockdown, whether for a drill or potential threat, the school remains locked down until the drill ends, or in the case of a perceived threat, until the threat or hazard has been cleared. If the situation warrants it, the District may also lockdown an entire campus or all campuses during an emergency. When a building is locked down, it's important for parents and community members to know that no one except law enforcement and other emergency responders will be allowed into the school.

Parents can best assist the District during an emergency by refraining from immediately calling their child's school or rushing to their child's school when a lockdown is initiated. During an emergency, school staff will be busy responding to the emergency and addressing the needs of students. Keeping the telephone lines open for emergency use is critical to the District's ability to respond quickly and effectively to the emergency. Likewise, it's important to keep the

roadways open, so law enforcement and other emergency responders can quickly get to our schools.

Parents should check the PMSD website at www.pmsd.org for information. Information and updates will be posted to the PMSD website during an emergency. District officials will also use ParentLink to provide updates to parents. If you don't currently receive ParentLink alert emails or text messages, you may want to sign up through the PMSD website to receive the alert emails and text messages.

Due to the unpredictable nature of any emergency, there may be a situation that requires us to evacuate a school or schools. District officials will notify parents of the location of a possible evacuation and parent reunification site as soon as possible. Depending on the emergency conditions, students may be released to parents at a designated location that is not at their school or campus.

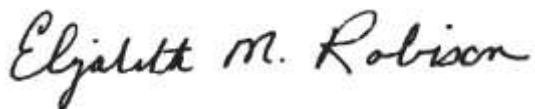
At an evacuation and reunification site, parents will be asked to provide a photo identification. Students will only be released to a parent or individual designated on the student's emergency form, so please make sure your child's school has the correct emergency contact information and permissions regarding who is allowed to pick up your child from school.

Please know that in an emergency District officials will communicate with parents as quickly as possible, but their first priority is always going to be taking the necessary steps to immediately ensure the life and safety of students and employees.

After last school year's incident, I want to remind parents to please make sure any firearms in the home are securely stored at all times to prevent children from accessing them. It's also very important to frequently verify that firearms are secure, especially if your child is feeling stressed, anxious, angry, bullied, suicidal or depressed.

Thank you for your continued support of our school safety efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elizabeth M. Robison".

Elizabeth Robison
Superintendent of Schools