

SAFETY & SECURITY



Lakota Local School District's top priority is the safety and security of students and staff. The district is committed to taking appropriate and direct measures to ensure safety and security in each of our schools and facilities.

Lakota Safety Initiatives

● **Safety Teams & Emergency Plans**

Lakota's Safety Team works closely with local law enforcement and emergency management officials to develop and refine an Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for handling crisis situations including lockdowns, natural disasters, chemical spills, bomb threats, missing students and strangers in the building. Every Lakota facility has a comprehensive emergency plan.

● **Safety Drills**

Students and staff participate in regularly scheduled safety exercises that include tornado drills, fire drills, evacuation drills and shelter-in-place drills.

● **Controlled Access**

School doors are locked, and call boxes are used at front entrances for visitors to identify themselves and to notify the office of the reason for their visit. Security cameras have been added to strategic locations throughout the district to help deter unwanted individuals from entering school buildings and assist in protecting schools from break-ins or vandalism. Cameras inside our buildings also aid in keeping our facilities safe.

● **Bearcade Lockdown System**

Bearcade Door Control Systems are installed in classrooms and throughout our buildings, allowing rooms to be secured in eight seconds or less.

● **Safety Tip Line**

Lakota partners with SaferSchools Ohio to provide a free 24-hour anonymous tip line to help alert local law enforcement to potential school safety crises. You can report anything that is suspicious or endangering by calling or texting 844-SAFEROH (or 844-723-3764).

● **Raptor Visitor Management System**

Raptor enhances and automates visitor management by reading a visitor driver's license (or other approved government-issued ID) and proactively alerting personnel to potential threats. For approved visitors, the system prints visitor badges that include the visitor's name, photo, date and destination.

● **Mental Health Resources**

Lakota offers a variety of services and supports to meet the mental health needs of our students (lakotaonline.com/mentalhealth). School counselors are available in every school building, and a partnership with MindPeace provides access to licensed therapists.

● **School Resource Officers**

Lakota currently has school resource officers serving each of our campuses. These are uniformed law enforcement officers, either deputies from the Butler County Sheriff's Office or police officers from the West Chester Township Police Department.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP



Everyone has an important role in ensuring the safety of students and staff. Here are ways that parents can help prepare for emergency situations.

- ✓ Keep emergency contact information up to date; double-check your information in FinalForms at the start of each school year and update as needed.
- ✓ Talk to your children and emphasize how important it is to follow instructions from their teachers and school officials during any emergency.

In the event of an emergency:

- ✗ Do not telephone the school during a crisis situation; it is essential that the telephone system be available for emergency communications.
- ✓ The district website will be the primary source for updates. Information may also be sent to parents using the district's email, phone call and text message notification system. Providing timely and accurate information to parents is a priority, along with the safety of each child.
- ✗ Do not share unconfirmed information on social media.
- ✗ Do not come to the school or evacuation location until instructed.
- ✓ Use caution calling or texting your child; sounds can disclose location.

Parent/Student Reunification Example

If a reunification process is required, Lakota will follow the steps outlined in the diagram.

Parents can be assured that no student will be left alone and that strict procedures will be enacted to ensure student safety and their release to parent-approved, appropriate adults.

Any adult arriving to pick up a student must bring photo identification with them to the pick-up location.

In the event of an evacuation to another location, parents will receive a phone call with detailed information.

Details of safety plans and evacuation locations are not made public so as not to jeopardize the efficiency or safety of the plan.

