

STANDARD™ REUNIFICATION METHOD

STUDENT/PARENT REUNIFICATION

Circumstances may occur at the school requiring parents to pick up their students in a formalized, controlled release. This process is called a Reunification and may be necessary due to weather, a power outage, hazmat or if a crisis occurs at the school. The Standard Reunification Method is a protocol that makes this process more predictable and less chaotic for all involved.

Because a reunification is not a typical end of school day event, a reunification may occur at a different location than the school a student attends. If this location is another school, then those students may be subject to a controlled release as well.

NOTIFICATION

Parents may be notified in a number of ways. The school or district may use email and/or its School Messenger text message notification. To receive school text notifications you must opt in to School Messenger, and your student's school must have your current cell number entered in their system. **Please follow the steps below to opt in:**

****Send a text message to 67587 with "Y" or "Yes" in the body of the text.**

****You will receive a confirmation text reply that you are registered with School Messenger.**

A reunification text message may look something like this: **"The school is closing at 1:00PM due to a power outage. Students may be picked up at the main entrance. Bring your ID."**

PARENT/GUARDIAN EXPECTATIONS

If a parent or guardian is notified a reunification is needed, there are some expectations parents or guardians should be aware of. First, bring a picture ID. That will streamline the reunification process. Second, be patient. Reunification is a process that protects both the safety of the student and provides for an accountable change of custody from the school to a recognized custodial parent or guardian.

WHAT IF A PARENT CANNOT PICK-UP THEIR STUDENT?

When a parent cannot immediately go to the reunification site, students will only be released to individuals previously identified as a student's emergency contact. Otherwise, the school will hold students until parents can pick up their student.

WHAT IF THE STUDENT DROVE TO SCHOOL?

There may be instances where a high school student may not be allowed to remove a vehicle from the parking lot. In this case, parents are advised to recover the student. In some circumstances, high school students may be released on their own.



POST FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT #273

HOW IT WORKS

For students, the school asks students be orderly and good listeners while waiting. **Students may be asked to text a message to their parents or guardians.** Students are also asked not to send other text messages either in or out of the school or reunification area. Keeping the cellular network usage at a minimum may be important during a reunification.

REUNIFICATION FORMS

For parents, there are a couple of steps. If a parent is driving to the school, greater awareness of traffic and emergency vehicles is advised. Parents should park where indicated and not abandon vehicles. Parents are asked to go to the Reunification "Check-In Gate" area and form lines based on the first letter of their student's last name. While in line, parents are asked to fill out a reunification form. In the case of multiple students being reunified, a separate card for each student needs to be completed.

BRING ID TO CHECK IN

During check-in, identification and custody rights are confirmed. The form is taken as a tracking sheet for students and parent will be given another form or ticket to show at the "Reunification Gate" area.

From the "Check-In Gate" area, parents are directed to the "Family Waiting" area. There, a staff member will take the form to the "Student Assembly Area" to recover the student.

Once the child has been retrieved by staff, the parent will be invited into the "Reunification Gate" area where ID will be verified again, and the student will be released to the parent.

Parents should be aware that in some cases, they may be invited into the building for further information.

INTERVIEWS AND COUNSELING

In some cases, parents may be advised a law enforcement investigation is underway and interviews are necessary. In extreme cases, parents may be pulled aside for emergency or medical information.