REAL-TIME PARENT NOTIFICATION POLICY

Policy Code: SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Section 1. Purpose

The Academy of Accelerated Learning, Inc. ("AAL") shall provide timely, accurate, and consistent communication to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation when circumstances involve a significant threat to the health or safety of students. This policy implements the parent-notification component of AAL's multi-hazard emergency operations plan and supports coordinated prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, reunification, and recovery.

Section 2. Scope

This policy applies to:

- All AAL campuses and facilities.
- All employees, contractors, and volunteers responsible for emergency communications.
- Parents, guardians, and emergency contacts of enrolled students.

Section 3. Definitions

Real-Time Notification: Communication transmitted as soon as practical following verification of an incident or event requiring parent awareness.

Emergency Event: Any situation involving student safety, security threats, severe weather, medical emergencies, evacuations, lockdowns, shelter-in-place actions, or other circumstances affecting normal school operations.

Section 4. Policy Statement

AAL shall use available communication systems to provide immediate notification to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation when a verified circumstance involves a significant threat to student health or safety. The Superintendent shall designate an individual responsible for overseeing parent notification and shall ensure messages are coordinated through AAL's incident command structure and communications procedures. AAL may delay or limit information only when immediate disclosure would interfere with emergency response, law enforcement operations, student reunification, or the protection of confidential information.

Section 5. Notification Methods

The district may utilize one or more of the following methods:

- Mass text messages
- Automated phone calls
- Email notifications
- Mobile application alerts
- School website alerts
- Social media platforms
- Emergency notification systems
- Local emergency management communication systems

Section 6. Events Requiring Immediate Parent Notification

Parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental relation shall be notified immediately when a verified event presents a significant threat to the health or safety of students, including:

Safety and Security Incidents

- Lockdowns
- Secure holds
- Evacuations
- Shelter-in-place events
- Active threat situations
- Law enforcement activity impacting campus operations

Health and Medical Emergencies

- Significant student injuries requiring emergency transport
- Public health concerns impacting the school community
- Environmental hazards affecting student health

Weather and Natural Disasters

- Severe weather warnings
- School closures
- Delayed openings
- Early dismissals

Operational Emergencies

- Utility outages affecting campus operations
- Transportation emergencies

- Building safety concerns
- Significant disruptions to instructional activities

Section 7. Notification Timeframes

Immediate Notification

Notification shall be issued as soon as practicable after verification and without unreasonable delay when:

- Student safety is threatened.
- Emergency protective actions are initiated.
- Emergency responders are engaged.

Follow-Up Notification

A follow-up communication shall be provided when:

- New information becomes available.
- Protective actions change.
- The incident is resolved.
- Student reunification procedures are activated.

Section 8. Student Reunification Communications

When reunification procedures are activated under AAL's multihazard emergency operations plan and Reunification Annex, notifications shall include:

- Reunification location
- Parent check-in procedures
- Identification requirements
- Student release procedures
- Transportation information
- Additional instructions from emergency officials

Section 9. Communication Responsibility

The Superintendent shall appoint a Public Information Officer or other designee to oversee emergency notifications. The following individuals may authorize notifications consistent with AAL's chain of command and incident command procedures:

- Superintendent
- Deputy Superintendent or designated emergency management coordinator

- Public Information Officer
- Campus Principal
- School Safety and Security Coordinator
- Other designee authorized by the Superintendent

Section 10. Accuracy and Privacy

The district shall:

- Verify information before release whenever practical.
- Protect confidential student information.
- Comply with FERPA and other applicable privacy laws.
- Coordinate messaging with emergency responders when necessary.

Section 11. Language Accessibility

AAL shall make reasonable efforts to provide emergency notifications in languages commonly spoken within the school community and in accessible formats for parents, guardians, and other persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency. Communications and reunification procedures shall account for the access and functional needs of students and personnel consistent with the multihazard emergency operations plan.

Section 12. Parent Responsibilities

Parents and guardians are responsible for:

- Maintaining current contact information.
- Providing updated emergency contacts.
- Monitoring district communication channels.
- Following official instructions during emergencies.

Section 13. Records Retention

Copies of emergency notifications, approvals, distribution records, and related communications shall be retained according to AAL's records-retention schedule and applicable law. Records containing personally identifiable student information shall be protected in accordance with FERPA and applicable state confidentiality requirements.

Section 14. Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed at least annually with AAL's multihazard emergency operations plan and after any material change in law, Texas Education Agency or Texas School Safety Center

guidance, or AAL emergency procedures. The Superintendent or designee shall coordinate recommended revisions with the School Safety and Security Committee and present policy changes for Board approval when required.

Section 15. Legal References

- Texas Education Code § 12.104(b)(3)(V), applying Texas Education Code § 37.108 school-safety requirements to open-enrollment charter schools
- Texas Education Code § 37.108(a) and (f), multihazard emergency operations planning, emergency communications, and immediate parent notification for significant threats to student health or safety
- Texas Education Code § 37.1086, equal access to safety for students and personnel with disabilities or impairments
- Texas Education Code § 37.109, School Safety and Security Committee responsibilities
- Texas Education Code § 37.115, threat assessment and safe and supportive school program requirements
- Texas Education Code § 26.0083, parental notification regarding student health-related services, monitoring, and significant changes in student well-being, as applicable
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g, and 34 C.F.R. Part 99
- Applicable Texas Education Agency and Texas School Safety Center rules, directives, model materials, and guidance.