



PENNCREST
EMPOWERING LIFE-LONG LEARNERS

Parent Responsibilities in an Emergency Situation

Safety Terms and Procedures

A school emergency or crisis can take a number of forms including an environmental event, such as a chemical spill or gas leak, a weather emergency, such as a severe storm or high wind event, or an intruder in or near the school. The nature of a school crisis will dictate the district's response.

In the event of an emergency at your child's school, it is important to know these terms.

Lockdown - A lockdown takes place if an internal or external threat is identified at the school. All school doors are locked and students are confined to classrooms. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an "all-clear" announcement is made.

Evacuation - In the event of certain school emergencies, students may be relocated to an assembly area. This assembly area may be at the school, at a different school within the district or a community location.

Reunification – After a school emergency it may be necessary to reunite parents and children. Parents will be notified and should follow the directions provided at the time of reunification. Students will be released to any individual who is listed in Unified Classroom/PowerSchool as "School Pickup". These individuals (parents, guardians, near relatives, neighbors, etc...) must present a valid photo ID.

The Role of Parents in an Emergency Situation

During a school emergency, the first instinct as a parent is to pick up the telephone and start calling the school, or rush up to the school to get your child(ren). The truth is, this only complicates matters from a safety and security standpoint. The school will not release your child(ren) until Central Office Administration or local first responders have given school officials permission to do so.

Parents too close to an incident often hinder the response of police and first responders on the scene. The best action parents can take in an emergency is to stay close to their phone and e-mail, and to monitor local media for regular updates and instructions.

You can help us prepare by ensuring that your child(ren)'s emergency contact information is accurate and current. The district uses the [SchoolMessenger](#) notification system to communicate with parents during inclement weather and emergencies.

School Safety is a Shared Responsibility

If You See Something Say Something