



SCHOOL SAFETY

What parents need to know



A school crisis is an incident that affects students and staff and can occur before, during or after regular school hours. We want our parents to feel confident in the safety of their children while they're at school, so we've provided responses to a few of the most frequently asked school safety questions.

What plans are in place to help children stay safe?

Bloomington voters supported the 2013 safety and technology referendum that provided resources to initiate best practices in school safety, including access and visitor management systems, emergency preparedness measures, school and district crisis response teams and ongoing training and drills.

Our emergency response and recovery plan is aligned with recommendations provided by the U.S. Departments of Education and Homeland Security to reduce risks and ensure the safety and well-being of students and staff.

All school staff are trained to assess the potential for serious incidents and respond according to our plan's established procedures and guidelines.

What can parents do when a school is in crisis?

Trust that we are first doing what is needed to protect your child(ren); then we'll communicate with available information. It is important to remain calm and monitor information sources.

We understand the natural instinct to want to rush to your child. Phone lines, staff and roads are needed for emergency response. Parents will not be allowed on campus.

Refrain from calling or texting your child(ren). The sound, vibration or conversation may put students in danger. Students need to be paying attention to instructions from trained staff.

As soon as it is safe to do so, and under the guidance of emergency responders, we will evacuate students to a secure location and begin the parent-student reunification process.

What happens in a school emergency?

In the unlikely event of a school crisis, schools will initiate one of the following school safe conditions:

- ★ **Lockdown** when the perceived threat is inside a building or on the campus.
- ★ **Shelter-in-place** when a potential threat exists near the campus and requires police or fire response.
- ★ **Evacuation** when conditions are safer outside the building.
- ★ **Hold-in-place** when an urgent or medical incident occurs to a student or staff. The response is intended to shelter students from the incident location.
- ★ **Severe weather** when conditions warrant relocating students and staff to a more secure location inside the school.



Sign up for text notifications

Parents may opt in to receive District emergency notifications via text message. To opt in, each parent must update individual contact preferences in Infinite Campus:

- Log in to Infinite Campus.
- Select Update Contact Preferences in the left menu.
- To opt in to text messages, provide a mobile number AND check the Text box in the Emergency column.
- To update phone numbers on record, click on Household Information > Update and/or Family Members > Update. Please allow up to two school days for changes to take effect.