

EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AT SCHOOL

Information for Families

Gilbert Public Schools is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our students, staff, and visitors. Take a moment to review this guide to ensure you are prepared in the event of an emergency situation at school.

What are the types of actions a school might take in the event of an emergency?

LOCKDOWN

Ordered when there is a threat **INSIDE the building**. Students and staff are secured **IN** the school. School staff does not communicate during a lockdown. Parents are not allowed on site during a lockdown.

MODIFIED LOCKDOWN

Ordered when there is an issue **OUTSIDE the building**, most often due to police activity in the area that could pose a threat, weather, or any unsafe condition. All exterior doors are locked while "business as usual" continues inside the school.

EVACUATION

Ordered when people must exit the building due to unsafe circumstances. If student pick-up or off-site reunification is required, instructions will be communicated by the district.

- Some situations may require a combination of actions above.
- School/District staff train yearly on emergency protocols and situation management.
- Students take part in drills throughout each school year.

What emergencies might impact a school?

Which actions are taken?

- **Severe weather** - Schools may initiate a Modified Lockdown until weather passes; could delay release of students at end of day until safe to exit building.
- **Fire or Hazmat Situation in the Area** - Evacuation or Modified Lockdown, depending on location and severity of fire/hazmat issue.
- **Threat of Violence or Weapon on a Person** - Lockdown, Modified Lockdown, or Evacuation, depending on the situation.
- **Intruder** - Requires an immediate Lockdown; an emergency notification will be sent to parents by the District with any instructions.
- **Police Activity in the Area** - Usually a Modified Lockdown ; action may be taken at the direction of law enforcement or any staff member.

What do I need to know, do, and not do?

- If you're at a school and an emergency occurs, follow protocol with students and staff.
- We know families want information right away. Our experience has taught us initial information is almost always incorrect. Please know, our security and administrative staff are working hard to determine what the real situation is and will communicate with families as soon as information is verified as accurate and next actions have been determined.
- Do not call the school or security staff, as they are working on the situation and ensuring your student's safety. Do not go to the school; this may interfere with procedures. Only public safety personnel will be allowed in/near a school during an emergency situation.
- We understand you may want to communicate with your student during an emergency, however, please refrain from calling; it may prevent him/her hearing important, possibly life-saving, instructions.
- **It is vital parents and guardians keep their information updated in *Infinite Campus*.** We will utilize email, text messaging, and phone calls to communicate with you.
- **The fastest way to get information in an emergency situation is check our website for alerts,** and also follow us on **Twitter @GPS_District and Facebook @gpsdistrict.** *Our website will be updated with the most current information and it is our first and fastest means of getting messages out.*