Omaha Public Schools Safety Effort

The Omaha Public Schools District is committed to providing a safe environment for students, staff and visitors.

The district’s Safety Division and our schools have worked together to strengthen and coordinate our Emergency Response Plans. We work closely with national, state and local safety officials such as fire, police, Douglas/Sarpy Counties Emergency Management Agencies and public health officials to ensure our schools are well prepared in the event of an emergency.

Each school conducts drills throughout the school year to help students and staff prepare for possible emergencies.

This guide offers steps you can take should a crisis occur at your child’s school.

Visit the OPS web site for additional information:

Omaha Public Schools
http://www.ops.org

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

Please detach the cards below and keep them with you at all times.

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Parent/Guardian Emergency Procedure

Carry at all times.

Following a school emergency, parents/guardians are encouraged to monitor school information and communications:

- Information may be sent to parents/guardians by the OPS Emergency Notification System.
- Visit OPS’s web site for updates. http://www.ops.org

**DO NOT** call or rush to your child’s school. Phone lines and staff are needed for emergency response efforts.

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How You Can Help

BE PREPARED FOR A SCHOOL EMERGENCY

- Ensure that your child’s emergency contact information is accurate and current.
- Remove the attached Emergency Procedure Card and carry it with you at all times.
- Become familiar with your school’s emergency communication procedures. OPS is committed to providing accurate and timely information in the event of an emergency.

IN CASE OF A SCHOOL EMERGENCY

Although your first reaction may be to call or rush to your child’s school, please follow the tips below.

DO NOT call or rush to your child’s school. Phone lines and staff are needed for emergency response efforts.

DO NOT phone your child. Staff and students are discouraged from using cell phone communication for safety reasons.

- Tune in to local TV/Radio stations for official school news alerts.
- Rely only on official communication from school or public safety officials.
- Listen for official information regarding reunification with your child.

Safety Terms and Procedures

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.

Shelter in Place – Students take refuge in designated areas to protect them from hazardous materials or severe weather. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all-clear” announcement is made.

Evacuation – In the event of certain building emergencies, students will be relocated to an evacuation assembly area. Students will be released ONLY to parents/guardians with picture ID and permission from a district official. This procedure is necessary to account for the location of all students.

Reverse Evacuation – Students are evacuated from the outside of the building to the interior in the event of an outside threat. No entry into or exit from the school will be allowed until an “all-clear” announcement is made.

How can I be reunited with my child?

Reunification – Parents/guardians will be directed by school Emergency Notification System, or public safety officials via media to their child’s specific location. Students will be released ONLY to parents/guardians or those who are documented as emergency contacts and who present a picture ID such as a driver’s license, military ID or passport.

The reunification process can be time-consuming, so parents/guardians are urged to be patient.

Following an emergency:

- Listen to and acknowledge your child’s concerns.
- Provide reassurance that your child is safe.
- Assure your child that additional prevention efforts are being put into place.
- Seek help from school personnel or a mental health professional if concerns persist.