A COMMITMENT TO SAFETY!

All Kentucky schools strive towards helping all Kentucky students feel safe so they can become successful, productive citizens. But safe schools are found in safe communities. Partnerships between schools, parents, law enforcement and community leaders help support and strengthen the efforts of the schools to enhance school safety in the education community. Engaging in and supporting school events, showing students that education is important and that the school staff is there to help them sets the stage for success. Should a student, parent or any community member have a concern about school safety please contact the school and share your concerns. School Safety begins with each and every one of us learning how to work together to support education and keep our communities safe.

The Kentucky Center for School Safety

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A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

A Parent Guide to School Safety

School Safety Begins With You!

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS HAVE IN PLACE?

• Except for the primary entrance, entrance doors should be kept locked;

• Check in procedures and visitor identification should be required for all visitors and monitored by staff;

• All school staff are clearly identifiable through use of staff ID tags.

• Each school has a plan in place to work towards preventing bullying, harassment and acts of violence in both the physical and virtual environments;

• An open communication strategy ensures good relationships with students, parents and the community that enables them to report concerns;

• Clear and consistently enforced universal discipline policies that create a positive, proactive school culture supporting academic and social growth.

•An emergency response plan has been developed with local first responders to react to an emergency;

•A clear plan for reunification of parents and students after an emergency event is available and has been communicated to the community.

WHAT IS AN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN?

A well-thought out, collaboratively planned, annually updated and frequently practiced plan for emergencies is the best one. The Kentucky Center for School Safety recommends these plans be developed with local community partners (Health, Fire, Police, Medical, Mental Health, Government) and practiced routinely.

There are five recommended responses to emergencies that essentially cover all potential disasters that may befall a school community. Announcements should reflect the action response. KCSS does not endorse the use of cryptic codes to initiate emergency procedures.

• Evacuation—for use when conditions are safer outside than inside.
• Reverse Evacuation—for use when conditions inside are safer than outside.
• Shelter-in-Place—for use in external gas or chemical release.
• Severe Weather Safe Area—for use in severe weather emergencies.
• Drop, Cover and Hold—for use in earth quake or other imminent danger to building or surroundings.
• Lockdown—for use to protect staff and students from potential danger in the building.

When a school enters an emergency response mode, no one but emergency personnel may enter or leave the building until the "All Clear" signal is given by the crisis team and/or principal.

KCSS understands that in an emergency you will be concerned for your child. Please keep in mind that the school must account for students before reunification or dismissal can begin.

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP SCHOOLS STAY SAFE?

Becoming aware of what your child's school procedures and protocols are for preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from potential disasters is the first step. But no matter how prepared we might be, there are no guarantees that an event will not occur beyond anyone's control. But as a parent, there are many things you can do at home that help support and enhance the school's efforts to keep a safe environment for your child.

•Keep the communication lines open and positive with your child, so that you will know if there is a safety concern.

• Keep the communication lines open and positive with the school so that you know who to contact if you have a concern about safety.

• Make sure there is someone at the school your child feels comfortable talking to about safety concerns.

•Encourage your child to stand up for those victimized by bullies. Research proves bystanders are the key to preventing bullying violence.

•Stress the importance of education in everyday life and demonstrate your partnership with the school in helping your child achieve success academically and socially.