

## What Should Parents do in the Event of an Emergency?

Parents and community members play an important role in keeping our schools safe. Following all security measures such as

- signing in at the school office
- allowing school and emergency services personnel do their job during an emergency
- keeping contact information up-to-date such as phone numbers and emergency contacts

The most helpful parental responses to a school emergency are to remain calm and wait for accurate information to be sent to the number listed on your child's emergency contact. We understand it is a natural instinct for parents to want to rush to their child. It is important for you to understand that, during such an event, individual schools and emergency responders have made preparations to deal with these incidents. Your cooperation in an emergency is essential to the safe and swift resolution of the incident.

Please do not call the school. It is essential to keep phone lines open so school officials can make outgoing emergency calls. If students are ill or injured, the parents of those students will be notified first. Please do not go to the school. As we have learned from past school emergencies, one of our greatest challenges is how to manage an onslaught of parents and concerned citizens rushing to the scene to "help." By doing so, parents can inadvertently create traffic jams that may block emergency responders from getting to the scene or leaving if necessary to transport injured staff or students to emergency medical facilities. Additional key points:

- Remain calm, follow procedures, and cooperate with school and public safety officials.
- Remain close to the phone listed as your emergency contact number.
- Understand that emergency pickup procedures are different than routine pickup procedures. You may be required to pick up your child at school or at a designated family reunification site.
- Follow emergency procedures. If you are asked to pick up your child, you will be asked to follow the checkout procedure established for emergencies.
- The reunification system was developed to ensure the safety of students and it is vital that the procedure be followed.
- Remain in designated areas at the family reunification site.
- Be patient!