

National Security and Safety Planning

Parents, guardians, and caregivers are asked to honor the plans and procedures that have been designed to maximize the safety of your children in the event that a local, regional or nationwide warning is communicated to our school district and community.

Please be reminded of the procedures for safety measures including **Lockdown** and **Shelter-in-Place**. Each of these designations requires 1) specific actions on the part of the district's staff and administration; and 2) cooperation on the part of parents, guardians, and caregivers.

A **Lockdown** is used when there is an imminent danger in or near the school building. This means that students and staff are locked in their classrooms and no one enters or leaves the school building except for authorized emergency personnel. *Parents will not be able* to pick up children at school until the conclusion of the lockdown.

A **Shelter-in-Place** is typically used when there is a hazard to health or a life-threatening situation in the area outside of the school building. School personnel will determine whether it is safe to allow anyone to enter or leave the school building. Therefore, parents *may not be able* to pick up children from school.

When it is deemed necessary to **evacuate** the building, school personnel will select sites away from the emergency. A process will be initiated for parents to pick up children.

If a lockdown or evacuation is announced via local media sources, school district staff will be instructed as to how to provide a safe environment for the students while parents will be discouraged from arriving on the premises, as this may impede emergency response procedures. An influx of traffic on the campuses of the three buildings may inhibit access by emergency response personnel. In the case of a shelter-in-place, specific directions regarding access to children will be communicated through local media or will be posted on the district web site (see below). Due to the potential for a high volume of telephone calls, and the need for efficient communication with emergency response teams, parents are discouraged from using the telephone to call the school offices.

When appropriate, the district status box on the Westy home page at the address www.whsd.org will post updates on district status. This is the same location where delays and cancellations may appear. You may also receive telephone messages through the district's automated notification system. .

The district reserves the right to exclude the media from immediate notification if consultation with local or state police and emergency response personnel indicates that the mass distribution of information would potentially jeopardize safety.