



Kiski Area School District

200 Poplar Street, Vandergrift, PA 15690 ~ 724-845-2022 ~ www.kiskiarea.com

PARENT AND CAREGIVER GUIDE

WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING A SCHOOL CRISIS

Each school in the Kiski Area School District has a Crisis Response Team consisting of administrators, teachers and other school staff. Collectively, they develop a comprehensive school safety plan.

The safety plan combines immediate solutions, long-term prevention planning and programs, while considering the school facility, security technology and on-going staff training. A crucial part of the safety plan at each school is the crisis plan developed to address those events that are emergencies and/or potential disasters.

All members of the school community are important in planning, creating and sustaining a school culture of safety and respect. If you have concerns about school safety, please share these concerns with the principal of your school. This communication is vital to continue your trust and to make any changes or enhancements to the school's crisis plan. Questions can be directed to your building principal.

WHAT YOU CAN EXPECT DURING A CRISIS AT SCHOOL

- The crisis plan will be implemented immediately. The school-based crisis response team will respond as necessary.
- Both 911 and the district School Resource Officer will be informed and respond immediately and appropriately.
- Depending on the situation, the staff and students will be secured within the school building or evacuated from the school building.
- Appropriate emergency response personnel will be dispatched to the school site.
- If the situation merits a district crisis team response, they will be dispatched to the school site.
- The utmost care will be extended to the students and staff for their safety and welfare.
- A telephone call or letter explaining the crisis and the response will be sent home with students as soon as possible.

NOTE: It is important to keep in mind that all emergency notification is based on information in the district's student database. If your contact information changes during a school year, please notify your child's school of this change immediately so records can be updated.

INTRUDER RESPONSE PLAN

Our schools are among the safest places anywhere. But, as safe as our schools are, we've all heard reports of violent attacks in places that no one dreamed would ever be in danger. To be prepared and to ensure students and staff members know how to protect themselves from harm, the Kiski Area School District has adopted an intruder response plan supported by the U.S. Department of Education. In the event a violent intruder enters a building:

RUN (Get Out or Evacuate)

If there is an escape path, students and staff will attempt to evacuate. Students will need to stay calm as they follow the teacher's instructions.

HIDE (Lock Out or Barricade)

If evacuation is not possible, students and staff will find a place to hide in an area that can be secured.

FIGHT (Take Out or Resist)

When RUN or HIDE fail or are not possible **FIGHT as a last resort**. If lives are at risk, attempts will be made to incapacitate and disarm the attacker.

To make sure our schools are as safe as they possibly can be, we should all be aware and be prepared. *If you see something, say something!* Your actions can make all the difference.

PARENTS/GUARDIANS RESPONSE TO A CRISIS AT SCHOOL

1. **Do not come to the school.** You may not be able to get into the school. You may put yourself in harm's way or you may interfere with the emergency response actions of the personnel at the school site.
2. **Stay where you are.** Listen for information and instructions. Information will be conveyed through School Messenger, our district website, www.kiskiarea.com, and local media.
3. **You will be informed** of where to go to be reunited with your child. The "Reunification Site" for your school is the place where you will be allowed to pick up your child. Please be patient and follow the instructions. Several precautionary measures will be in place to ensure the safe return of your child.
4. **Do not call the school or your child if he or she has a cell phone.** The circuits you are using may be essential for the emergency response.
5. **School will resume as quickly as possible.** It is true that "getting back to normal" is the most reassuring response for children and adults.
6. After the crisis, **talk with your child about the situation** and listen to your child's fears and concerns. Share ongoing concerns with your child's teacher and/or a counselor.

HOW WILL YOU RECEIVE INFORMATION IN THE EVENT OF A SCHOOL, DISTRICT OR COMMUNITY EMERGENCY?

- **School Messenger** automated calling system (sends both a phone message and email message) from your child's school (if the emergency is an isolated incident).
- District and the school **website and social media**.
- **Local media**.

Not all of the emergency notification resources will be used for each situation. If you have questions about how you will receive notification in a particular situation, please contact your child's building.