

Hillsboro School District Safety Information

Important information about terminology, response protocols, and communication

There is nothing more important than the safety of our students and schools. When an incident occurs, it can be easy to panic and forget that there are standard protocols to help guide our actions and keep people safe and secure, as well as to communicate about what is happening.

Safety Terminology

In the Hillsboro School District, we use the [Standard Response Protocol](#) (SRP) to respond to the four most common emergency actions: lockdown, lockdown, evacuate, and shelter-in-place.

- **Lockout** - *threat or hazard is outside of the school building (e.g. police activity in the area)*. Students and staff come inside the building, exterior doors are locked, classes continue as normal.
- **Lockdown** - *threat or hazard is inside the school building*. Students and staff move inside classrooms, lock the door, turn off lights, shut blinds, move away from sight and maintain silence until First Responders arrive.
- **Evacuate** - *move from one location to another*. Bring your phone, leave other belongings behind. Exit the building in an orderly fashion, re-assemble in evacuation location.
- **Shelter-in-Place** - *personal protection is necessary (e.g. earthquake or student medical or behavioral incident)*. Depending on the incident, students may simply need to stay in their classroom or they may need to evacuate to a shelter area and follow instructions.

Communication

HSD is committed to communicating about safety incidents as quickly and accurately as possible. Oftentimes, the delay in posting information is due to the gathering and vetting of details prior to putting it out broadly. Please remember that what people may be texting to one other or posting or sharing on social media accounts is likely not complete or accurate information and may contain rumors. The best source of information is the District and/or school website. Always check there first when there is concern about a potential safety incident. An archive of past safety incidents is maintained on the District website under [Safety Alerts](#).

Key Requests and Reminders

- When an incident is happening at your child's school, please do not drive to the school. In many cases, you will not be allowed to access the school or your student, and the additional traffic will hinder the efforts of police, fire, and other first responders. Please wait for additional information or instructions on when, where, and how to reunite with your student(s).
- Threats received via social media are extremely difficult to track down and disprove. We will communicate about these as they occur, but we may not always have a complete answer as to why or how the threat was generated.
- Please remind your student(s) that posting or sharing anything online that could be considered a safety threat will be taken very seriously and could subject that student to both school discipline and legal charges. School safety is never something to joke about.
- Student discipline is not something that can be discussed with anyone other than a legal parent or guardian. Therefore, there should be no expectation that the consequences a student may face for causing or perpetuating a safety threat/incident will be shared with others. Consequences for various behaviors and actions are outlined in the [Standards of Student Conduct](#).