



Parent/Guardian Role in Emergencies

Providing a safe place for students to learn and grow is one of the most important responsibilities of our school system. All Stockton Unified School District schools have a Readiness and Emergency Management for Schools (REMS) plan in place. Drill procedures for emergencies and disasters are regularly practiced at school. Along with school staff, your family plays a critical role in preventing and responding to school emergencies. The information in this document is intended to provide parents/guardians with the **steps you can take before, during and after an emergency.**

BEFORE EMERGENCY: Prevention/Preparedness

- Report any issues, concerns or rumors related to safety to your school principal or SUSD Police Department 468-6911.
- Help support all security measures when visiting our schools by signing in and out at the school office and wearing a visitor's badge at all times while in the building.
- **Regularly update your student's Emergency Card with your current contact information and emergency information.** This is the contact information which will be used for our automated telephone system to alert you of situations. In the event of an emergency, only custodial parents, legal guardians and those persons listed on the emergency care are allowed to pick up students at a parent re-unification center.
- If your child is on **medications** taken at school, be sure the school has at least a two day supply at all times.
- Create your own family emergency plan. For tips on how to prepare a plan go to the American Red Cross website: www.redcross.org

DURING EMERGENCY: Response

In a school emergency, the first instinct of many parents is to pick up the telephone and call their child or school and/or rush to the school to get their children. The truth is, this only complicates matters from a safety and security standpoint. School and district staff are trained and prepared to care for your student in emergency situations. **The best action parents can take in an emergency is to stay close to their phone and e-mail and to monitor local radio and TV reports for regular updates and instructions.**

- **Do not** report to your child's school during emergency situations. The school access route and street entrance areas must remain clear for emergency vehicles.
- **Avoid** calling the school or the district offices during the emergency. Please leave our lines open for emergency calls and responders.
- **Stay close to your telephone listed on your child's emergency card** for district updates through our automated telephone system.
- **Tune your radio (KSTN 107.3 FM or KFBK 1530 AM/ 92.5 FM) and local television** stations to monitor information disseminated by the district
- **Monitor the district's website:** www.stockton.k12.ca.us

District Release Policy: Parent Reunification

- Students will be dismissed from school or from the parent reunification center only to parent/guardian or designated person listed on the student's emergency card.
- All parents/guardians or designated persons who come for a students must present photo identification.
- No student will be allowed to leave with another person, even a relative or baby sitter, unless we have written permission to that effect or that particular person is listed on the student's emergency card in our files.
- District and school staff will care for students until parent/guardian or designated person arrives.

If the school building is evacuated, how will I be able to locate my child?—Parents will be directed to a specific location called a parent reunification center where they will be required to show valid identification. At the reunification center, students will be released only to authorized individuals. The reunification process involves several deliberate steps to help ensure the safety of students. In some cases the process may not be as rapid as many would prefer. As difficult as it may be, we ask your help in remaining calm and patient during this process so we can reunite parents and students as quickly and efficiently as possible.

AFTER EMERGENCY: Recovery

- Following a school crisis, specially trained school and district crisis intervention members are available to provide counseling and outside referrals to students, staff members and others who may need it.
- Monitor your student's behavior and let the school know if you think counseling or help is needed.
- The district will work as quickly as possible to restore normal school operations and will inform parents of any changes.