

SAFE SCHOOLS ARE FOUND IN SAFE COMMUNITIES

All District schools strive towards helping students feel safe so they can become successful, productive citizens. Safe schools are found in safe communities.

Partnerships between schools, parents, students, law enforcement and community leaders help support and strengthen the efforts of the District to enhance safety.

Engaging in and supporting school events, showing students that education is important and that the school staff is there to help them sets the stage for success.

Should a student, parent or any community member have a concern about school safety, please contact the school or law enforcement and share your concerns.

School Safety begins with each and every one of us learning how to work together to support education and keep our communities safe.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP TO
MAKE A COMMITMENT TO SAFETY!**

School Emergency Card for Families

If a major District emergency occurs, families can get critical information and directions by doing one of the following:

- Call your child's school directly for information;
- Visit the District Web site at www.leeschools.net;
- Tune in to local media (television and/or radio stations) in the Lee County area.



A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

**The School Board of Lee County,
Florida**

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**The School Board of Lee County,
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A PARENT GUIDE TO SCHOOL SAFETY



A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL



The School District of Lee County

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**Developed with Readiness and
Emergency Management Services
Funding**

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What is an Emergency Management Plan?

The best approach to address emergency situations is a well thought out, collaboratively planned, annually updated and practiced plan. The School District of Lee County has developed emergency management plans with local community partners (Health, Fire, Police, Lee County EOC, Medical, Mental Health, Government) and practiced them by conducting routine drills and attending training sessions.

Below are the recommended responses to emergencies that cover potential disasters that could happen within a school community:

- Evacuation;
- Shelter-in-Place/Drop and Tuck;
- Lockdown.

When a school enters an emergency response mode, no one but emergency personnel may enter or leave the building until the "All Clear" signal is given by the school's principal, after consultation and approval from emergency response personnel.

The School District of Lee County understands that in an emergency parents will be concerned for their child(ren.) Please keep in mind that the school must ensure the safety of ALL students and staff, collaborate with emergency responders and account for students before reunification or dismissal can begin.

Emergency responders have repeatedly expressed concern about parents rushing to the school to find their children and blocking the access of emergency personnel. This creates a dangerous situation for everyone — including parents — and we request your assistance to follow the established procedures, allow the responders to do their jobs and help support the safety of everyone concerned.

What Will Schools Have In Place?

- Except for the primary entrance, entrance doors should be kept locked;
- Check in procedures and visitor identification should be required for all visitors and monitored by staff;
- All school staff should be clearly identifiable through use of staff ID tags/badges;
- The District has a policy in place that addresses preventing bullying, harassment and acts of violence;
- An open communication strategy that ensures good relationships with students, parents and the community and enables them to report concerns;
- Clear and consistently enforced discipline policies that create a positive, proactive school culture supporting academic and social growth;
- An emergency response plan that has been developed in conjunction with Lee County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) that details how to react to an emergency situation;
- A plan for reunification of parents and students after an emergency event (that is available) and procedures that have been communicated to the community, as security allows;
- Administrators who have taken National Incident Management System (NIMS) training and participated in school and District drills and exercises and are committed to keeping students and staff safe.

How Parents Can Help?

As a first step, become aware of what your child's school procedures and protocols are for preventing, preparing for, responding to and recovering from potential disasters.

No matter how prepared we might be, there are no guarantees that an event will not occur beyond anyone's control. As a parent, there are many things you can do at home that help support and enhance the school's efforts to keep a safe environment for your child:

- Keep the communication lines open and positive with your child and the school so that you will know if there is a safety concern;
- Encourage your child to come forward and tell an adult if they know of a potentially dangerous situation;
- Make sure there is someone at the school your child feels comfortable talking with about safety concerns (Teacher, Counselor, School Resource Officer [SRO,] Administrator);
- Encourage your child to stand up for those victimized by bullies. Research proves bystanders are the key to preventing bullying;
- Stress the importance of education in everyday life and demonstrate your partnership with the school in helping your child achieve success academically and socially.