

# School Safety Overview

We know that when you drop your child off for school each day, you are putting your trust in us to keep him/her safe. Protecting each and every student is a priority that is woven into the fabric of how AAEC High School District works to deliver an exceptional educational experience.

In collaboration with local law enforcement, our administrators, teachers, and staff work together to prevent, prepare for and mitigate risks to ensure that we provide a safe and supportive educational environment. District efforts for emergency management are guided by an Emergency Operations Plan based on the National Response Framework in conjunction with local, county and federal authorities. Our plans are scalable, flexible and adaptable to meet the evolving needs of our students, campuses and District. They are routinely reviewed, optimized and practiced to ensure that if an incident should occur, our staff, students, parents and authorities are familiar with the procedures, the facility and their role in maintaining the safety of our campuses to ensure that everyone goes home safe at the end of the day.

## School Safety Reporting

Per A.R.S. 15-153, AAEC school site administrators are required to report to law enforcement any suspected crime against a person or property that is a serious offense as defined by (A.R.S. 13-706(F)(1) or involves a deadly weapon, dangerous instrument as defined by A.R.S. 13-105(12) and (15) respectively or serious physical injury as defined by A.R.S. 13-105(39). The first report to law enforcement will come from the site administrator.

Additionally, we report any conduct that poses a threat of death or serious physical injury to an employee, student or other person on school property.

The site administrator involved in the investigation will notify the parent or guardian of each student who is involved in a suspected crime or with any of the conduct stated above. We require our employees to comply with reporting requirements. Our district office administration and personnel officer maintain records regarding any employee who is disciplined under the policy and upon request we make those records available to any public school that is considering hiring that person.

## Reporting Safety Concerns

Any student, parent/guardian, caregiver or community member who has a concern over any aspect of the safety of students (on or off campus); the safety of school campuses, and the safety of students at events should not hesitate to contact any AAEC School

District employee email address (@aaechs.com) or phone number (602-297-8500) All AAEC employees have the duty to protect students and will take the appropriate actions to elevate the concerns to the appropriate officials.

- Arizona Department of Child Safety, 1-888-SOS-CHILD (1-888-767-2445)
- [Phoenix Police](#), (602) 262-6151 or 9-1-1
- [Paradise Valley Police](#), (480) 948-7418 or 9-1-1
- [Avondale Police](#), (623) 333-7001 or 9-1-1
- [Mesa Police](#), (480) 644-2211 or 9-1-1
- [Prescott Valley Police](#), (928) 772-9261
- Dale Nicol, AAEC Director of Academic Services, (602) 297-8500
- Any AAEC High School Employee

## Safety Drills

To ensure that everyone has familiarity with their role during an emergency, AAEC High School District personnel work in collaboration with school, district and local law enforcement officials to coordinate safety drills each year across all campuses.

These drills provide valuable training and allow for an opportunity to optimize plans. The types of exercises held include:

- Fire Drills
- Lockdown Drills
- Shelter-in-Place Practice

School and District emergency operations plans are reviewed at least annually to ensure that they benefit from the information gained during training, exercises and lessons learned from other campuses around Arizona and the nation.

## Response Protocol

During an emergency, we respond with various protocols to keep students safe. These include evacuation, lockdown and shelter-in-place with the ultimate goal of student-parent reunification.

### Lockdown

Lockdown procedures are designed to secure all students, teachers, and staff in the nearest available lockable room. Lockdowns may be used in situations involving dangerous intruders or other incidents such as police situations occurring in the neighborhood near the school.

## Shelter-in-Place

The goal of using a modified lockdown is to secure the outer perimeter of the school so that nobody can enter or leave the campus while still continuing with student education. This style of lockdown procedure should only be used in situations where there is no threat on the school property, but there is a possible threat somewhere in the surrounding neighborhood.

## On-Site Evacuation

The purpose of an on-site evacuation is to move everybody from inside buildings to a safer area outside on campus grounds. Although most commonly known as a fire drill, the on-site evacuation would be used for any situation where being outside is safer than being inside. Some examples of this may be when there is a gas leak, or if there is an unknown odor inside a building.

# Emergency Alerts & Notifications

The District's Public Information Officer and school Principals are the official sources of information during any emergency involving the AAEC High School District. They will notify parents and guardians of all enrolled students to share emergency alerts and notifications. Some of the avenues of communication are robocalls, emails and text messages.

***In the event of an emergency, parents/guardians of enrolled students at the affected site(s) should receive information via text, email or robocall provided the student has accurate information in the school's database.***

Parents & Guardians: It is imperative an accurate home/mobile phone number and an email address exists for each student. If you are unsure of the information on file, please verify the contact information with your student's front office. It is also a great idea to check this information at the start of every school year. If we have no information on file for your student, you will NOT receive emergency alerts and notifications. In this case, and for all members of the public, emergency information can be obtained by calling your particular school or the district office.

While we do our best to speed the pace at which information flows during an emergency situation, we must balance speed with accuracy. As such, there will likely be a delay from the time a situation arises to the time notifications are delivered. We strive to deliver the most accurate information possible during rapidly unfolding and evolving situations.

If your student is equipped with a mobile phone, they will likely be the first to make you aware of a situation in their schools. This is because they are directly communicating to you while our communications must be vetted through officials and directed into emergency notification avenues. Take some time to speak with your student about how you'd like them to communicate with you during a school campus emergency and ensure that you have the District's Information Line (602) 297-8500.