Each local school shall develop, periodically update, and implement specific plans for that particular campus. The District Safe Schools Plan shall include, but is not limited to, guidelines for actions to deal with the following specific hazards: injuries and illnesses, fires, thunderstorms, tornadoes, floods, hurricanes, winter storms, hazardous materials, earthquakes, utility failures, bomb threats, civil disturbances, terroristic acts, and nuclear emergencies. The plans also require drills, as appropriate, for emergencies arising from these hazards. It also shall include provisions for communicating information on emergency preparedness procedures to staff and students appropriate for their grade level.

Everyone has a Role

Ensuring school safety is everyone's responsibility— staff, students, parents, and the entire community. Please report any safety concerns you may have to your school principal. In addition, ask your local school about its safety plan.

One important role you can play in keeping schools safe is to tell someone about illegal behavior or concerns you may have. Gwinnett County Public Schools operates a School Safety Tip Line.. Call or text 770-822-6513 to make a report. You do not have to give your name when providing information via this confidential tip line.

Frequently Asked Questions on Safety

As a parent, how can you prepare for a school emergency?

The number-one step that you can take to prepare for a school emergency is to provide accurate emergency contact information to your child's school and notify the school if your information changes.

What should I do during a school emergency?

During a crisis, your first response might be to pick up the phone to call the school. However, a high volume of calls may bog down the phone system. When a school emergency occurs, a parent can get important information and directions by doing one or all of the following:
(1) Visit *www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us* or your local school website.
(2) If your school is affected, the district's notification system, **SchoolMessenger,** will send out a notice. Check your messages.
(3) Monitor local television and radio for news alerts.
(4) Tune into the school system's cable TV station.

During an emergency, you will want to get important information and directions from school officials before going to the school. You can be confident that accurate and timely information will be released to parents, the public, and the news media during any emergency incident.

What is a lockdown?

During a **hard lockdown** all school interior doors are locked and students are confined to their classrooms and no entry or exit of the school is allowed. This takes place if there is a threat or possible threat inside the school.

During a **soft lockdown** all exterior doors are locked. This takes place if the threat is outside of the school. In some cases, parents could be admitted into the school with proper identification.

How will I know if a school is in a hard lockdown?

The main entrance will be locked.

If the school is in a soft lockdown, what type of identification will I need to enter the school and/or pick up my child?

If it is deemed safe to allow others to enter the building, you or your designated emergency contact will need to show a proper form of identification, such as a driver's license or valid photo identification.

What does shelter-in-place mean?

Shelter-in-place means taking refuge in a small, interior room in the school, remaining there until it is safe to release students. This is a precaution to keep our students safe from hazardous materials that may have been released into the atmosphere. (This is not the same thing as going to a shelter in case of a storm.) This procedure is implemented if it is determined that evacuation or dismissal could possibly place students at risk.

Who determines whether or not a school should be evacuated?

In the event of an emergency at or near the school, school leaders follow the direction of law enforcement and emergency-response agencies in determining whether or not to evacuate the facility.

If the school is evacuated, how will I be able to locate my child?

Each school has a procedure for helping parents to reunite with their child during a school emergency. Parents will be directed to a specific location where they will be required to show proper identification. Remember, a student can generally only be released to an adult who is documented as an emergency contact. If you are a noncustodial parent, you must be listed on your child's emergency contact information as a guardian and you will be required to show proper identification.

In regard to school emergencies, what should my child know?

Important rules for students during a school emergency are:
(1) Follow the directions being given by the teacher or principal.
(2) Before using a cell phone, make sure it is safe to do so.
(3) Do not leave the school campus unless instructed to do so. In an evacuation situation or if school is dismissed early, follow the directions provided by the principal.

Responsible Use of Electronic Media for Students

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) recognizes that the use of technology is prevalent in society. Students and staff have access to the Internet, cell phones, games, and a variety of personal technology devices. Students and staff utilize social media websites and applications as well as a variety of other digital resources that allow them to interact, share, create and innovate. Staff members utilize these same resources as a means to effectively engage students, motivate student learning, and collaborate with colleagues.

When using GCPS technology or network access, students are expected to follow the Student Conduct Behavior Code, including respecting others' privacy. Online student accounts to be used for legitimate educational purposes will be subject to monitoring and review, including review of text and attachments that are related to that student or students. At NO TIME should a student consider GCPS e-mail, networked applications, or account or technology access private or confidential in any way.

While the school district does maintain Internet filters, there may be times when a student may accidentally or purposefully discover inappropriate materials online. Gwinnett County Public Schools DOES NOT CONDONE the use of such materials. Inappropriate use of GCPS technology or network access is a violation of the Student Conduct Behavior Code.

Access is a privilege, not a right, and all students are expected to treat this learning tool with respect. GCPS technology, network access, and electronic resources must not be used to:
• Harm other people.
• Interfere with other people's work.
• Steal property.
• Gain unauthorized access to other people's files or programs.
• Gain unauthorized access to online resources, including using someone else's password.
• Make changes to the hardware or software configuration of any machine, including installing or deleting any software.

- Improperly use the network, including introducing software viruses and/or bypassing local school or office security policies.
- Steal or damage data and/or computers and network equipment.
- Access, upload, download, and/or distribute pornographic, hate-oriented, profane, obscene, or sexually explicit material.

Failure to follow these guidelines can violate the Official Code of Georgia, O.C.G.A., Codes 16-9-90, 16-9-91, 16-9-93, and 16-9-93.1 as well as Title XVII of United States Public Law 106-554, known as the Children's Internet Protection Act. Such use can also lead to disciplinary actions, up to and including loss of access to GCPS technology resources and further disciplinary actions as defined by existing GCPS policies. Such disciplinary actions may include confiscation of technology being used inappropriately if an incident occurs.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOD)

Gwinnett County Public Schools is a "Bring Your Own Device" (BYOD) district. This program is designed to support teaching and learning through safe, efficient, and monitored wireless access. If your child's school or class is participating in BYOD, then students are allowed to bring mobile devices with the expectation they will be used as a supplemental instructional resource. The BYOD access may be limited to certain schools, areas, and zones, based on the school's identification of instructional need.

To participate in the use of BYOD resources, all users must agree to use the school network when available, and not personal mobile data service providers, on their devices. Using the school network ensures a filtered, appropriate solution that is optimized for BYOD use. GCPS is not responsible for any damages, fees, lost functionality, support, or costs that may be the result of students or staff members participating in BYOD. This is a voluntary program, and students will not be penalized if they do not participate. Whether the device is owned by a parent, student, staff member, or school, the user of the device is responsible for protecting the device at school, on the bus, or at school functions.

Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)

COPPA applies to operators of commercial websites and online services and limits their ability to collect personal information from children under the age of 13. COPPA allows the school to act as the parent's agent and consent to the collection of a student's information on the parent's behalf within the educational context— where an operator collects personal information from students for the use and benefit of the school, and for no other commercial purpose. By signing the response form, parents grant consent for Gwinnett County Public Schools, and Gwinnett County Public Schools' employees, to act as the parent's agent in providing consent for the collection of student information within the educational context.

Supplemental Technology and Student Email

GCPS provides access to Google G Suite for Education and Microsoft Office 365 as supplemental resources to the district's adopted Learning Management System for local schools to use if they wish. GCPS will allow the use and issue student email (Google Gmail) accounts to students for use internal to GCPS only. Students can access the email from any device via the Student Portal. However, for security purposes, students will only be able to send and receive emails to and from other Gwinnett County Public Schools' Gmail users.

Welcome To Our Tobacco-Free School

School district policy prohibits the use of tobacco products at all GCPS facilities/campuses, by all students, staff, and visitors, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

Thank you for your cooperation!

770-822-6513

School Safety
TIP LINE

Confidential Tip Line
Call or Text
770-822-6513
(You do not have to give your name.)

Help keep your school safe! If you think that someone is carrying a weapon, drugs, or alcohol on school property, or if you believe that you have been the target of violence or threat of violence, or have witnessed violent or threatening conduct by another person, please call or text the tip line.

Other Important Telephone Numbers for Reporting:

Violence/Threats/Crime— First, call Local School Principal, then call Safety and Security at 770-513-6715

Student Discipline— First, call Local School Principal, then call the Office of Student Discipline and Behavioral Interventions at 770-513-6607

Racial Discrimination/Sexual Harassment— First, call Local School Principal, then call Title IX Coordinator at 678-301-6811