



**BOERNE ISD EMERGENCY PROCEDURES
INFORMATION
FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS**

The following questions and answers are designed to help students and parents understand generally our school district's emergency procedures. Please read them carefully. Emergency preparedness is ongoing. The main goal of the Boerne ISD is to *prevent* crises from happening. Once they do occur, then the goal is to minimize the harm to those involved. The Boerne ISD works extensively with local and state agencies to prepare for emergencies. Additional information on emergency preparedness can be found at local, state, and national websites.

1. What is emergency preparedness and what emergencies does the Boerne ISD prepare for?

Answer: Emergency preparedness for a school district consists of four elements - prevention, preparation, response, and recovery. The Boerne ISD's efforts toward such preparedness are coordinated with many resources at the local, state, and national levels. The Boerne ISD enjoys exceptional support from local law enforcement and emergency responses agencies. Specifically, the Boerne ISD prepares for a wide range of events or crises the most common of which are fire and weather-related hazards.

2. Can I see a security plan for the school district or my child's school?

Answer: No. To do so, could possibly increase the risk to students and employees by allowing the plans to come into the hands of those who may pose risk to our campuses and other facilities. Texas law exempts sensitive information in our plans from public disclosure.

3. What will Boerne ISD do if an emergency occurs, and the children are in school?

Answer: The specific actions taken by the Boerne ISD in any emergency will vary depending on the nature of the emergency or crisis. For example, a response to a fire is different than a response to a weather-related event. In some emergencies Boerne ISD will receive instructions and directives from local, state, or federal agencies.



4. In an emergency, can the school keep parents from coming and getting their children and if so, why?

Answer: Depending on the nature of the crisis or emergency, it may be necessary to restrict access to a school campus by anyone who is not a school employee or an emergency responder (police, fire, EMS). We ask that you respect any such restrictions as they are designed to aid the safety and security of the students. Parents will be notified of the location of a parent/student reunification center if one is established.

5. Who can pick up children from schools?

Answer: Students will not be released to individuals who are not authorized on the students' emergency care cards or who do not have express parental permission to do so.

6. What is a lockdown?

Answer: A lockdown is an internal procedure where a campus administrator orders all campus classrooms and facilities to be locked. In that situation, the children remain secure in such classrooms or other facilities.

7. What is a shelter in place?

Answer: A shelter in place is also an internal procedure whereby students are kept inside the school facility to protect them from an external hazard such as a weather-related event or a chemical hazard. A shelter in place procedure may include closing windows, doors and shutting down heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems.

8. What is an evacuation?

Answer: An evacuation is an emergency response whereby students are ordered to leave a school building or facility. For example, if a fire alarm sounds, the students may be ordered to leave the building or facility. In that case the students will be directed to another facility or area that is safe from the initial emergency. In rare cases, students can be evacuated from one campus to another.



9. What is a parent/student reunification site?

Answer: A parent/student reunification site is usually a physical location separate from the facility or area where a crisis or emergency occurred. It is there that parents are orderly reunited with their students. For example, a major fire may cause the evacuation of students to another campus. Parents and students may be reunited at the other campus.

10. Why can't parents be notified of evacuation plans and parent reunifications sites ahead of time?

Answer: Texas law exempts sensitive information in our plans such as this from public disclosure. It might be necessary not to disclose the ultimate locations of students and employees to protect them from further threats or dangers. It might also be necessary to change the ultimate locations to which students and employees are taken.

11. Is there adequate food and water for the students in the event students are sheltered in place for an extended period?

Answer: The Boerne ISD Food Service Department keeps, on the average, enough food and water to provide provisions for the students from 5 to 7 days.

12. What if my child and other students are riding the bus at the time an emergency occurs?

Answer: School bus drivers will be in communication with the Transportation Department during any crisis. Bus drivers will be given specific directives to follow, and they will be directed away from the crisis or emergency. Parents will be informed if a parent/student reunification center is established. For the safety of the students, it is important that parents not approach any bus while it's enroute or in a secured location.

13. What if my child and other students are on a field trip at the time an emergency occurs?

Answer: Depending on the circumstances, the field trip may be canceled, and the students may be taken to a safe location as directed to do so by the Transportation Department. The creation of a parent/student reunification center may be required. Parents are reminded that Boerne ISD reserves the right to cancel field trips at any time and Boerne ISD will not be responsible for any related financial obligations incurred by the parents.



14. My child is a special needs child. What emergency preparations and considerations are being made for special needs children?

Answer: It is important that any such parent visit with their child's nurse at the beginning of each school year. The parent and the nurse should discuss the medical needs of the child and should work together to formulate a plan that assures appropriate medical care and attention that the child must receive in the event of an emergency.

15. Can I contact my child at school on his or her cell phone during an emergency?

Answer: The Boerne ISD asks both students and parents to use good judgment and common sense in emergency situations. For example, it may be necessary for students to remain quiet so that they can remain undetected or so that they can hear instructions from school officials or emergency responders.

16. Will students be allowed to view a television in the event of a major state, national, or world catastrophe?

Answer: In such circumstances, administrators and teachers will be instructed as to the appropriate actions to take. Due consideration will certainly be given to restrict younger aged children from having access to media sources in those situations.