



Preparing for Emergencies in Schools

Fire Safety

- It is important that all students are safe in school. Many students have vision, hearing, mobility, sensory, learning, and developmental or intellectual disabilities.
- The lessons we learn in school need to help us be safe in school and also at home and in our communities.
- Here are some lessons we need to learn about fire safety...
 - We need to learn about smoke alarms. What they are. Where they should be. How to change the batteries. How to check if they are working. How they sound. What we should do if we hear or see an alarm. What to do when we are awake and what to do when we are sleeping.
 - We need fire safety education in ways we understand and ways that will enable us to be safe based on our specific disability. Learning is different for each of us. Depending on our needs, we can learn through reading, pictures, puppets, videos, interactions, activities, and role playing.
 - We need to be taught about the safe use of fire as a tool such as cooking. And be taught how to prevent, recognize, and communicate fire dangers.
 - Each person with a disability is different. We need to learn about making fire exit plans that works for each of us. A plan for school, home, and where we work. We

also need to learn what to do if there is a fire when we are out somewhere in the community.

- We need to review the information and practice our plans with different people and in different places so we are ready if there is a fire.
- We need to understand when and how to call for help, including calling 911.
- We need to help ourselves be safe.

Lockdown Drills

- A lockdown drill prepares people at school in case there is or could be an intruder or an active shooter in the school building. Preparing for these emergencies help everyone stay as safe as possible.
- We need to help all students understand what to do during a lockdown, including those with vision, hearing, mobility, sensory, learning, and developmental or intellectual disabilities.
- During a lockdown drill all students, including those with disabilities, need to become familiar with changes in the building and ways we are expected to act during this time. There may be differences in the lighting, sounds and the building. Help us be prepared for these changes little by little as we learn and practice.
- When planning lockdown drills, we need to learn ways to calm ourselves when we feel anxious or uncomfortable.

- During these drills, students with disabilities may need comfort items, games, a tablet, snacks, etc. to help create a quiet environment during a lockdown drill. Let's work together to learn what would provide each student with comfort and keep us safe during lockdowns.
- After lockdown drills, please find ways for students with disabilities to share how we feel, in ways that are accessible and comfortable for us.

Weather and Disaster Emergencies

- It is important that all students are ready for weather and disaster emergencies. Students who have vision, hearing, mobility, sensory, learning, and developmental or intellectual disabilities may need to prepare and respond in different ways.
- We need to help all students understand how to prepare and respond to these emergencies in school, at our home and in our communities.
- We need to learn and practice protecting ourselves, evacuating, and sheltering on a regular basis so that we are confident when there is an emergency.
- Help us learn how to make an emergency plan and a safety kit. What supplies we should put into a kit and why it's important. These supplies include food items, toileting supplies, and emergency medications available. We need to learn how include those items we need related to our specialized needs. These could be charges for a communication device, batteries for a wheelchair, and comfort items.
- Help us learn where to store and check on our safety kit so it is ready.
- Help us learn how to set up a safety support team and a communication plan in case of an emergency.

- We want to be informed, ready, and able when weather or other emergencies happen.

Let's live safely together.

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