



Duxbury Public Schools

School Safety Forum
November 9, 2022

Secure Facilities

- All Duxbury staff members go through a thorough Massachusetts criminal background check prior to working with students (CORI, fingerprinting).
- Our school doors remain locked during the school day and after school hours as long as students are present in the buildings (Magic Dragon, before/after school programs).
- Staff members must wear their ID badge at all times when in school buildings.
- School office staff check licenses and provide visitor badges for anyone entering the school.
- We will be enhancing the school entrances this fall which will allow all schools the ability to check visitor licenses before visitors enter into the building itself.
- There are security cameras throughout the campus in both indoor and outdoor locations.
- We are fortunate to have 2 full-time School Resource Officers, one on each campus.

Emergency Training

- We have **comprehensive emergency response plans** and all staff participate in a mandatory training led by our SROs/DPD each year. Staff trained include teachers, instructional assistants, administrators, office staff, and substitutes.
 - Our SROs are available for follow up questions with individual teachers on an ongoing basis
 - Response plans include shelter in place, medical shelter in place, lockdown, and fire alarm
 - Principals lead safety trainings both to start the school year and during faculty meetings that include discussions of different scenarios that could potentially happen in schools.
- All classrooms have phones that can call the office, nurse, 911, other classrooms, & outside lines.
- All staff members have the authority to call a lockdown and can access the school PA system from classroom/office phones.
- Our emergency response protocols cover a number of potential scenarios.

Student Drills

- Students participate in four fire drills per year. Sometimes we know when the drills will take place, other times they are unplanned as directed by our local police and fire departments.
- Students also participate in two lockdown drills per year. The language used to explain the lockdown drills is developmentally appropriate in order to minimize fear and anxiety.
- Secondary teachers are expected to review emergency procedures with their students each period so students know what to do in any classroom or area of the school.
- Elementary teachers & specialists talk to students about how to respond to fire and lockdown drill “tones” in different areas of the school.

Communication

- If a lockdown or shelter in place is called at DMS/DHS, both schools will enter into the protocol response.
- If a situation is occurring at Alden/DMS/DHS, all school office staff and administrators will decide if the situation warrants all three schools entering the protocol.
- Communication with office staff/administrators/teachers in outdoor areas can currently occur within schools using handheld radios. We will soon be able to communicate within and between schools and with the ROCCC dispatch using new radios that we have obtained through a federal grant.
- School administrators will communicate any safety related information to families as soon as possible (School Messenger, Aspen, social media). It is usually better to wait to hear from the schools rather than calling the main office when a situation is underway.

Counseling and Support

- Our schools have mental health and counseling support available for students.
 - We have also partnered with Gosnold (Alden/DMS), and Care Solace for individual counseling referrals.
- We have employee assistance plans that can assist any staff member with counseling and mental health services if needed.
- If concerns about individual students arises, we have a comprehensive **risk assessment** procedure that involves our school psychologists, counselors, administrators, and SRO. Parents are informed if a risk assessment is warranted.
- We have an anonymous TipNow system where any concerns about safety can be reported. These reports go to administrators & SROs via text and email immediately.

Final Thoughts

- We face unique situations in schools every day and always debrief and complete after action planning to reflect on our response.
- We understand that we have an incredible responsibility to protect our students from harm.
- The schools are in constant communication with each other, central office, and the Duxbury Police & Fire Departments. We have a close working relationship and are extremely collaborative with one another.
- If safety concerns are reported to us- we take immediate action and work directly with the Duxbury Police. No two emergency situations are alike, and we will always err on the side of caution whether that means calling a lockdown or cancelling school if there is a threat that is deemed credible.
- We always communicate as much information as we can during an active investigation and understand that it can be frustrating when we can only share minimal detail.

TipNow



How can you participate in ensuring that our schools are safe?

- Any safety concerns that needs immediate attention 24/7, please send a TipNow alert. 781-285-7184
- For questions about school safety procedures, please contact building principals directly or our SROs.
- For questions regarding student mental health concerns or support:
 - Care Solace ([link](#) on main page of district website)
 - School Counselors & Psychologists
 - Building Administrators
- If you have a specific question or concern regarding school safety, we encourage direct communication rather than social media so we can address concerns in a timely manner.
- You can always call 911 after school hours for mental health concerns, our staff members do not monitor email consistently in the evenings and overnight.