

# School Safety and Security – General Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Additional Resources are available on our website:  
[www.foxborough.k12.ma.us/school\\_safety](http://www.foxborough.k12.ma.us/school_safety).

- Emergency Communications with Families
- Terms and Procedures in the Event of a School Emergency
- What Parents Should Do If There Is School Emergency
- Quick Tips if There is a School Emergency
- Visitor Procedures

## Q: What infrastructure improvements have most recently taken place?

Over the past couple of years, vital infrastructure improvements to school security systems throughout the district have taken place. We are continually identifying and adapting technology best practices to ensure the safety of our school children. Safety enhancements include enhanced phone capabilities with 911 notification systems, strategic placement of security cameras to allow visibility of key areas throughout and around school buildings and the addition of the high school athletic campus. We constantly assess and test our ability to harden access to school buildings. For example, we were recently awarded a grant to upgrade school entry doors and locks.

## Q. How will my child's school handle an emergency?

All of our schools have a comprehensive emergency plan that was developed in conjunction with our local police and fire departments. These emergency plans outline specific procedures and processes to follow in response to emergencies. While it is never possible to prepare for every conceivable situation, our emergency plans are broad and incorporate national standards and best practices for drills. To refine and ensure that our methods are valid, we practice emergency drills, with our staff, students, and police and fire departments requiring different responses such as offsite evacuation throughout the year.

## Q. How can I find out what's in the security plan?

The district has made this Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document along with other resources available on our website. For safety and security reasons, the more detailed plans are not made public.

## Q: How often do schools conduct emergency drills?

Per state regulations (603 CMR 18.00), schools are required to complete emergency drills while school is in session. All schools practice response to fires, stay-in-place incidents, bus, and school evacuations and lockdowns. Other drills may include Fire / Evacuation Drill, Blocked Exit Fire Drill, Bus Evacuation, Stay-in-Place, Lockdown, Building Evacuation to Rally Points, Student Staging Areas and Reverse Evacuations (from the outside in)

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## Q: What additional trainings take place for staff?

- Emergency Response Team
- Anaphylaxis Drill (for life-threatening allergies)
- Medical Emergencies
- CPR/AED
- Crisis Response

## Q: Are drills announced or unannounced?

Both announced, and unannounced drills take place.

## Q: Are parents notified when drills take place?

Drills are a normal part of school operations. As a result, communications regarding regular drills will not always be sent out.

## Q. What is a stay-in-place?

A “Stay in Place” procedure is used to stop movement throughout the building. Classes continue as usual during a stay-in-place. A stay-in-place may be used when an accident or environmental issue occurs that requires temporarily separating people from an area or hazardous outdoor environment

## Q. What is a lockdown?

If an emergency prevents the safe evacuation of students from the school, students would be kept in their classrooms or another designated area in the school that is away from the danger. Entrances to the school are secured, ensuring that no unauthorized person enters the building. For example, a lockdown may be used when an immediate threat is detected in or around a school building.

## Q: Students readiness for this information varies based on age. How will this be communicated to students in age-appropriate ways?

We want our children to be prepared for emergencies, including if an unsafe person was to enter our school. We take into account a child’s developmental readiness to ensure that students feel safe and have opportunities to talk about their feelings and reactions.

## Q. What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?

All buses have communication devices, and drivers are in contact with our Transportation Department. Depending on the crisis, the driver will receive directions about how to proceed and where children should be taken. The District will utilize our phone messaging system to contact families.

## Q: How will parents be notified if their child’s school is experiencing an emergency?

Notification will be sent out using all methods of school district communication, including a phone call from our automated calling system and information on the district website. Please also pay attention, to your email, social media: Facebook & Twitter, and tune in to local media outlets. Please know that the news will not always report accurate information.

## Q. Who can pick up my child at school?

In the event of an evacuation, the District will follow a standard reunification plan to ensure all students are reunited with their families. During a reunification, families or individuals listed as an authorized person to pick up your child should do the following:

- Bring a valid form of identification (ID).
- Follow signage and parking directions of reunification location.
- Complete the provided reunification form.
- Choose the check-in line that corresponds to your student's grade.
- Provide school personnel at the check-in table with a valid form of a photo ID and the completed reunification form.
- Wait patiently as a District staff member retrieves and escorts your student to you.

Please note that only approved adults with valid photo identification will be allowed to pick up students from an evacuation location.

## Q: What if my child asks a question about school safety, and I don't know how to answer it?

School guidance counselors and your child's teachers are good resources. You can say that you are not sure, but it's a good question, and you'll help them find an answer. You may encourage older children to ask their teacher because other students may have the same question.

## Q: What can I do at home to teach my children about emergency preparedness?

Talk to your children about taking emergencies and drills seriously and encourage them to listen and follow directions during a critical event.

It is also a good idea to have a plan in place at home for what your family will do during an emergency.

## Q: What do I do if my child heard something that raises a concern, but doesn't want to get anyone in trouble?

Students are always encouraged to report a concern to any of our school staff members. Encourage your child to immediately report concerns to a trusted adult. It is critical that our students understand that reporting a suspicious circumstance doesn't automatically get someone in trouble. It could save a life.

We ask that everyone remains vigilante and alerts the schools and the police about anything suspicious that you might see or hear at school, in the community, or online by adopting the "see something say something" strategy and asking your children to do the same.

## Q: What is a school resource officer (SRO)?

As defined by the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO), a school resource is a career law enforcement officer with sworn authority who is deployed by an employing police department or agency in a community-oriented policing assignment to work in collaboration with one or more schools. SROs work in partnership with the schools to provide a safe learning environment. They are a valuable resource to school staff members, fostering positive relationships with youth, developing strategies to resolve problems affecting youth, and protecting all students so that they can reach their fullest potentials. They serve to educate students through class lessons, grade level, and school meetings. They also serve as an informal mentor to students and are a law enforcement officer.

## Q: How many School Resource Officers (SROs) are in Foxborough, and who are they?

There are two (2) SROs in Foxborough. One officer is assigned to the Foxborough Public Schools, and one officer is assigned to the Foxborough Regional Charter School. Both SROs work closely with all schools in Foxborough.