

Lake County School District R1  
328 West 5th Street  
Leadville, CO 80461

September 2019

Dear LCSD Parents & Guardians:

We are very excited to have begun another great school year in Lake County! Here at LCSD our most important job is to keep your children safe. Attached is some important information about the tools and strategies we use to promote safe schools. This information is only to keep you informed, not to cause concern. We want you “Prepared, not scared”.

**Safety & Security**

First, I am enclosing a copy of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). This is the system we use in all Lake County schools. We use a “lockout” when there is a potential threat outside the school building; the intent of a lockout is to keep students and staff inside the school building. For students, school continues as normal during a lockout, with the exception of recess, which is held indoors instead of outdoors. A “lockdown,” on the other hand, is used if there were a potential threat inside the school. Teachers and students secure themselves inside during a lockdown, using the guidelines “locks, lights, out of sight.” Though we practice lockdowns each year, it is extremely rare that we would require this level of response. Students receive training in school about what to do in an emergency.

Though it is highly unlikely, should we ever need to evacuate students from one or more of our schools, we also have a system to reunite students and parents. I am enclosing information about the Standard Reunification Method (SRM) as well as a Sample Reunification Card, so that you will know what to expect in this rare event. This background information will be helpful if we ever need to use the SRM. In the case of an emergency, you would receive a phone call and/or text from the schools. This would be sent to the same phone(s) on which you receive other communications from the schools. Please make sure your school’s front office always has your updated contact information.

A concept that will be introduced to students grades 7-12 is “Evacuate, Evade, Defend”. These are personal safety concepts that are integrated within our Standard Response Protocol. The introduction of these concepts will encourage your student to be thinking and make the smartest choice for their personal safety. We encourage you to have a family conversation regarding these concepts.

Second, I am enclosing a copy of our "Threat Assessment Fair Notice". This form explains the process LCSD uses to assess threatening behaviors.

One way you can help keep our schools' safe is to encourage your student to please share any concerns they have about safety with an adult, preferably at school, but also at home. We will be reinforcing with students that speaking to an administrator or teacher about a concern they have, or about something they have overheard, is an important step to make sure that all of our schools are as safe as they can possibly be. Another option to anonymously report a safety concern is to report it at [www.safe2tell.org](http://www.safe2tell.org) or call 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233); some additional information is also attached. We appreciate your help with this!

### **Welcoming Environments**

In addition to the steps we take to make our schools safe and secure in the ways described above, we also work hard to make sure our schools are welcoming to all students, families and community members. One of our commitments is that bullying has no place in our schools. I am enclosing a copy of our bullying prevention brochure. This document outlines how we define bullying, and how we respond to a report of bullying behavior in one of our schools. Another commitment is to Title IX and Nondiscrimination. It is important that not only staff but students as well understand their rights in this area. I have also attached a flier that will be available at all school buildings so that those rights are well understood.

We are continuing work that we started last summer on two other initiatives directly related to creating welcoming environments. The first was a training for all staff to enhance our culturally responsive practices. It is important that our schools support the culture of all of our diverse students and families. For example, parents whose first language is not English should be able to access interpretation whenever it is needed. And no matter what your primary language, you and your voice should always feel welcome and valued in our schools.

The second initiative was an update to our policies regarding students who are transgender or gender non-conforming. Like all students, these students have a right to feel supported, safe and welcome in our schools. This includes a right to privacy, and a right to assert their preferred gender at school. Our updated policies can be found in section A of the administrative policies section of our website. We would also be happy to answer any questions you might have, or to provide you with a copy of these policies.

### **Illegal Substances**

We want to make sure that parents and visitors to the Lake County School District are aware that we do not permit anyone to engage in tobacco use (smoking, chewing or vaping) while on school property. We also do not permit anyone to engage in alcohol,

marijuana or illicit substance use on school property. When we refer to school property, we are referring to the existing buildings, parking lots and land in our district, as well as locations where our students gather to play sports, perform or participate in other competitions. Those locations are considered school property when Lake County School District students are present, and we hold all visitors to the same standards as we would in our local buildings.

Please contact any of our administrators or myself directly should you have any questions about school climate or safety. I wish you all the best for a healthy and productive school year!

Sincerely,

Mike Vagher  
Director of Safety/Security

Attachments:

Standard Response Protocol  
Standard Reunification Method  
Standard Reunification Sample Card  
Threat Assessment Fair Notice for Students  
Threat Assessment Fair Notice for Parents  
Safe2Tell Information  
Bullying Prevention Information  
Title IX and Nondiscrimination