

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

September 2023

Dear LCSD Parents & Guardians:

We are very excited to have started 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

Enclosed is a copy of the Standard Response Protocol (SRP). This is the system we use in all Lake County schools. We use a “Secure” when there is a potential threat outside the school building; the intent of Secure is to keep students and staff inside the school building. For students, school continues as normal during Secure, with the exception of recess, which is held indoors instead of outdoors. A “hold” may be called when we need students and staff to remain in their area. This could be for a variety of reasons and would be called overhead. 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.” We practice lockdowns each year so staff and students would have the “muscle memory” should we ever need to call one in an emergency.

We will also practice an evacuation at each school annually. This will look different at each school. Information will be sent to you before this drill to give you more information. I am enclosing information about the Standard Reunification Method (SRM) as well as a Sample Reunification Card, so that you will know what you would be asked to fill out. 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.

A copy of our “Threat Assessment Fair Notice” is also enclosed. 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 or call 877-542-SAFE (877-542-7233); some additional information is also attached. We would also ask that you talk to your student about using this platform in the correct way. This is not a site to “tattle” on someone nor is it a place for false reports. All reports that come in are received by law enforcement and the school district and follow ups are made on all reports.

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 and our website <http://www.lakecountyschools.net> so that those rights are well understood.

We continue to work with students, families and staff to create a welcoming environment. Watch for principal coffee chats that principals are hosting throughout the year. There are many ways to be involved in your students' school and we hope you will reach out to administrators if you are looking for a way to volunteer or ideas on how to be involved.

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.

Communications

Communications from the schools are an important part of the school engagement and I encourage you to read the weekly newsletters from your school. They share not only current events in their communications, but will also share information on upcoming drills.

The district administration will work with school administration to communicate with you via text and email should there be a safety concern at the school. This communication will inform you if there are any immediate needs, an overview of the event and any additional steps that need to be followed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to myself or an administrator at the schools.

Sincerely,

Bunny Taylor
District Safety
Lake County School District
719-486-6805/719-293-0738

Attachments:

Standard Response Protocol
Standard Response Protocol Parent Handout
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