

Safety and Security at Silsbee I.S.D.

Silsbee I.S.D. is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for our students, staff, and visitors. Our comprehensive security program addresses prevention, intervention, student assistance, preparedness, emergency response, and facility security.

SISD Safety Programs Include:

- A Crisis Management Plan is in place and a Crisis Management Team is located at each campus and at the district level.
- School Resource Officers are assigned to each secondary school campus and another one rotates among the elementary campuses to accomplish their goal of establishing a good rapport and relationships between students and law enforcement while ensuring a safe atmosphere for our students and staff. The SRO's presence provides a deterrent to undesirable activity and their accessibility helps resolve situations quickly and offers a counseling ear to students.
- Silsbee Police Officers, Hardin County Deputies, and Texas D.P.S. Troopers are available to provide security and law enforcement services at our campuses, athletic events, and after hours special events.
- As needed the district provides crossing guards for the safe passage of students to and from school.
- Access control such as single points of entry, double doors, and locked perimeter doors at campuses help provide a secure environment by limiting access to those persons with a legitimate need to be in the building.
- Each campus in the district practices monthly fire evacuation drills as mandated by state law. Additionally, each campus routinely participates in additional safety drills including: Severe Weather, Lockdown, Shelter in Place, and Site Evacuation as prescribed in the district's Emergency Operations Plan.
- Campus staff members participate in on-going safety and security training sessions specific to each individual campus.
- Portable radios allow administrators and staff to communicate about what is happening anywhere on the campus at any given time. They are also available for teachers to take to the playground in case of an emergency, a concern, or the need of nursing care.
- Telephones have been installed in every classroom in the district, giving instructional staff instant access to the school nurse and/or campus administration in case of an emergency.
- Fire alarm systems protect all district campuses.
- A Criminal Background History is performed on all applicants for employment, all persons who volunteer in the schools, and all businesses doing business with SISD.
- K9 interdiction services are used at unannounced times on secondary campuses, whereby specially-trained dogs inspect schools and parking lots for the presence of drugs, alcohol, or explosive devices.
- Closed circuit television systems have been installed at the high school and middle school to monitor all high traffic/public areas. These closed circuit TV's help administrators monitor activities and to act as a deterrent to criminal activity.
- Coaches, nurses, and other staff members are CPR and first aid certified.
- Each campus has a full time nurse.
- Privacy: Certain information about students is considered directory information and will be released to anyone who follows the procedures for requesting the information unless the parent or guardian notifies the district in writing. (see Appendix II in the Student Handbook)
- The district provides an AED to all campuses as a safety and welfare measure. What is an AED? Automated External Defibrillators are used when a heart's rhythm goes into an uncoordinated electrical activity called fibrillation. During fibrillation the heart twitches ineffectively and can't pump blood. A defibrillator delivers an electric current through the chest wall to the heart, momentarily stunning it. While this may not sound therapeutic, it actually gives the heart an opportunity to resume beating effectively. Not very long ago, you could only find "defibs" in a hospital or other medical setting.

It is important to note that a shock is not always needed. AEDs have built-in microprocessors that assess the patient's heart rhythm through adhesive electrodes to judge whether defibrillation is necessary. If the device determines a shock is appropriate, it administers the appropriate level of current through adhesive electrode pads. AEDs aren't cheap. Each unit costs about \$3,000. But they are very accurate and have become increasingly easy to use. AEDs use voice prompts, light, and text messages to tell the rescuer what steps to take.

Proper use of AEDs is a part of all CPR classes. Every coach and bus driver in Silsbee ISD is certified in CPR. In addition, our campus nursing staff does annual training with all campus staff on appropriate use of the AED.

Experts say that during a sudden cardiac arrest, a victim's chance of survival decreases by seven to ten percent for each minute he or she does without defibrillation. So quick thinking and appropriate action are paramount.

- Silsbee ISD is at the forefront of school districts in Texas in these efforts to ensure the safety and security of students, staff, and community members.

Emergency Operations Plan

The objectives of the Emergency Operations Plan are to protect the lives and well-being of students and staff through the prompt and timely response of trained school personnel should an emergency occur at school. Silsbee I.S.D. understands that the safety and security of all students and staff is the first priority in any situation. An emergency can and may occur at any time, Silsbee I.S.D. believes it is of the utmost importance to be prepared for any and all hazards that may affect our schools.

Campus Emergency and Response Plans

Silsbee I.S.D. is committed to the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors on its campuses. SISD maintains an Emergency Operations Plan which outlines the district's approach to emergency management and operations. It provides general guidance of emergency management activities and an overview of the district's methods of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

As a parent, it is always concerning to find out that your child's school has experienced an emergency during the school day. Often rumors begin to spread about what may or may not be happening at school. These rumors can heighten fears and frighten parents. The natural instinct is to call the school to find out what is taking place.

In an emergency, scores of calls begin coming into the school. When this occurs, the phone lines are quickly jammed and campus administrators have difficulty placing calls. If an emergency situation arises, campus staff will do their best to change the recorded message on the campus voicemail system, but emergencies do not always allow time to change the phone system. Regardless of the situation at hand, the Silsbee I.S.D. staff will do everything possible to keep students safe. Please keep in mind that our campuses regularly conduct Evacuation, Lockdown, Tornado/Severe Weather, Reverse Evacuation, Shelter in Place, and Site Evacuation Drills.

Evacuation

In the event that a fire, explosion, smoke smell, gas odor, fire alarm, or bomb threat occurs on campus, all students are evacuated from the building until an "all clear" is issued. Once it is deemed safe to reenter the building, students and staff will return to their regular activities.

Site Evacuation

Relocation: In the interest of safety for students and staff, the administration may direct that one or more campuses or sites be relocated to a designated relocation site. **ALL** students at the affected school(s) or

site(s) will be transported via district transportation. Students will not be allowed to leave the premises in private vehicles. District administrators will be available to assist campus administrators at the relocation sites. Students will only be released from the reunification site to an adult listed on the student's emergency information card that has authorization to accept custody of the student. Proper identification will be required.

Lockdown

There are two possible situations that could cause a campus to go into a lockdown:

- an immediate threat to the school population or personnel
- an immediate potential threat in the community surrounding the school

If Lockdown procedures are activated, all doors, windows, classrooms, and administrative offices are locked. Students and staff members remain in their locked classrooms and offices until the "all clear" is given. Under Lockdown procedures, **NO ONE** will be allowed to enter or leave the building. Law enforcement will assist the campus if necessary.

In the event of a lockdown, parents and community members are asked not to approach the campus. Any parents who attempt to gain access to a campus in lockdown will be referred to an alternate waiting site until the lockdown has ended.

Tornado/Severe Weather

This procedure will be utilized based upon the severity of an approaching storm or severe current weather conditions. Students located inside portable buildings will immediately move into the main building. Classes will move to pre-designated safe areas and follow instructions from teachers and staff members. Students and staff will assume a protective posture which consists of kneeling and facing an interior wall with their head down and hands protecting the back of neck and head.

Reverse Evacuation

A reverse evacuation is used when students are not in class and must be brought into the classroom quickly. Examples: suspicious/threatening person or other potentially harmful condition outside of the building.

Shelter in Place

A shelter in place procedure may be implemented when a situation occurs that may be a hazard to health or is life threatening. It can be used when it is safer to keep the students inside the building rather than expose them to possible harm by allowing them to leave the building. Tornado warnings, wildfires, a chemical release or spill, or other environmental hazard may all trigger a Shelter in Place at schools securing the students and the buildings.

Shelter in Place means that all windows and doors are locked and the air conditioning system is shut down to keep toxic hazards from entering the school. For the safety and security of all students and employees, **NO ONE** will be allowed to enter or leave a building that has activated Shelter in Place procedures. This means that parents will not be able to pick up students from school. To open the doors at any time would jeopardize the health and safety of students and employees. Therefore, it is safer to keep students inside the building rather than expose them to possible harm by allowing them to leave the building.

Once the "all clear" is given, students and teachers will return to their regular activities. Keep in mind that if you live near a campus that is sheltering in place, for your safety, you should shelter in place at home.

Parent-Student Reunification

In the event that a campus must be completely evacuated to a designated relocation site, Silsbee I.S.D. will notify the parents of the campus involved through the School Messenger System Telephone

Notification System as well as through local television and radio stations. The message will include information as to the location of the students and the Parent-Student Reunification point.

The following procedures will be adhered to:

- Only those persons listed on the student's Emergency Information Card will be allowed to pick up the student. Those persons picking up a student must have proper identification before a student will be released.
- Upon arrival at the relocation site, parents should:
 - Park in the designated parent parking area being careful not to block entrances and/or exits
 - Report to the Parent-Student Reunification table, do not attempt to enter the building
 - Present proper identification to the administrator in charge at the Parent-Student Reunification table and inform them of which student(s) you are there to pick up
 - The administrator will then check the student's Emergency Information Card to verify authorization
 - Upon authentication, the student will be sent for and escorted to the table
 - The authorized person will then be asked to sign the Emergency Reunification Form and the student will be dismissed

The purpose of this plan is to make certain in a crisis situation that all of our students are safe and are reunited with the proper parent/guardian. We understand that this can be a time consuming process during an already stressful event and we respectfully request that you remain calm and patient. Again, the safety of your child is the most important issue at this time.

Staff Development and Training

The district's staff prepares for emergencies by participating in drills throughout the school year. Crisis training is integrated into the district's staff development program. District facilities are also available after school hours for city and county first responders for drills that familiarize emergency personnel with each of our campuses.

Environmental Health and Safety

Silsbee ISD is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students and staff. SISD employs the nationally recognized concept of Integrated Pest Management when dealing with pest problems throughout all facilities. IPM simply involves using common sense, least toxic methods and physical controls in dealing with pest problems. This may take the form of physical barriers to pests, cultural controls of food products, general sanitation and periodic low toxicity pesticide applications. All persons applying pesticides at campuses are required to receive special training in pesticide application and pest control.

Periodic safety inspections and audits are conducted throughout SISD campuses to identify problems before they become an issue.

Fire protection systems and extinguishers are continually being monitored and inspected to comply with local and national codes as required.

Weather Related Closings and Delays

The following information is provided to help parents understand how the district determines whether or not to hold school or delay opening school on bad weather days. Please note that student and staff safety is our first priority. The decision to call off school is a very important one and is made only after thorough consideration.

ASSUME THAT SCHOOL WILL OPEN AS USUAL

The existence of inclement weather may necessitate a delayed opening or cancellation of the school day. When there is cause for concern Silsbee ISD has designated several staff members who begin driving the roads in all areas of the district before 5:00 a.m. in order to assess road conditions. The superintendent will hear reports from those individuals and make a decision shortly before 6:00 a.m. In addition, we call other area schools districts to coordinate plans about school closings or delays. Sometimes the decision seems clear the night before. However the decision will still need to be made the morning of school due to unforeseen circumstances.

Media Announcements

Staff and students are advised to listen to local radio and television stations for current news about inclement weather, school closings or delays of any nature. Announcements will be made on area radio and television stations including:

Radio Stations

KLVI 560 AM
KAYD 101.7 FM
KYKR 95.1 FM
KKMY 104.5 FM
KIOC 106 FM
KCOL 92.5 FM

Television Stations

KFDM Channel 6
KBMT Channel 12
KBTB Channel 4

Weather Notifications

If a decision must be made as to school closing or a late opening, announcements will be posted on the district's website (www.silsbeeisd.org), broadcast on area radio and television stations, and posted on the Region 5 Education Service Center's website (www.esc5.net). Appointed staff will communicate only closings or delays to the local media outlets. Broadcast stations will be asked to announce any changes to the regular district schedule. Otherwise, schools will be open as scheduled.

2015 – 2016 Weather Related Make-Up Days

The Silsbee ISD School Calendar reserves April 15th and May 30th as bad weather make-up days. If no school days are lost due to bad weather, these dates will be used as school holiday.