



## **SAFETY and SECURITY COMMON LANGUAGE**

As we continue to have student and staff safety at the forefront of everything we do within the district, we have updated and changed some of our Emergency Response Safety Protocols to provide a consistent, clear, shared language and actions among all students, staff and first responders for all school related hazards.

The district has updated our safety response protocols, so they are easy to understand for quick implementation. A uniform, planned, and practiced response to any incident is the foundation of a safe school. The standard response protocols are action-based, flexible, and easy to learn. The responses organize tactics for response to weather events, fires, accidents, intruders, and other threats to personal safety.

These district responses will allow the district, first responders, students/staff and parents to share specific vocabulary for quick and coordinated action responses to the presented emergency. These action responses allow our school and Neshaminy District school communities to develop standard practices for emergency events that will be necessary to appropriately react in the moments of crisis.

The district's standard response protocols are based on five actions: Hold, Secure, Lockdown, Evacuate and Shelter. Some of these protocols are carry overs from our previous protocols that had been a staple in our school system for years.

### **Practice Emergency Response Actions**

#### **HOLD:**

Is a response to an event that may be happening or happened in a hallway, or an area of the building and it is necessary to limit movement between classes for a period of time (*ex. someone became ill in the hallway, and we are allowing the custodial team to clean and sanitize the area*).

## **SECURE:**

Is a response when the local authorities may be handling a situation in area near or is in proximity to our school building(s). The police activity does not interfere with the daily operations of the school building. The school is safe, all students are inside, unfortunately until the SECURE designation is lifted the building will not accept visitors. Once the SECURE Action is lifted by Law Enforcement the building administration will let families know (*ex. domestic family situation at a home*)

## **LOCKDOWN:**

Locks, Lights, Out of Sight is a response where students and staff are secure in individual rooms, quiet and out of sight with the room lights off. There is a heightened issue either near school campus or on the school campus that may cause possible danger. Students and staff will be released through police and/or administration from their room settings. Parents and Guardians are asked not to show up or report to the school site/campus until the Lockdown is lifted. In most cases, there will be a reunification process that will be communicated by the district officials to you via our Parent link system

## **Evacuate:**

Is in response where students and staff need to leave an area, or the building based on events inside the building. Parents and Guardians are asked not to show up or report to the school site/campus until a plan of action for reunification is disseminated to parents and guardians (*ex. Fire, water...*).

## **SHELTER:**

Is in response to a Weather Event that is outside or forecasted for the area. Students and staff in these cases will be asked to be away from exterior windows and doors for their protection. Students and staff may be asked to go to other safe havens within the building, again away from exterior windows and doors (*ex. Tornado warning*).