



Bethel Public Schools

School Emergency Guide for Parents

The Bethel Public Schools are Prepared for an Emergency

The Bethel Public Schools takes emergency preparedness very seriously. We provide regular crisis management training to school administrators and other key staff throughout the District.

Each school has a School Security & Safety Team composed of key staff members with assigned roles and responsibilities during an emergency. These committees meet regularly during the year to review procedures. In addition, every school conducts emergency drills throughout the school year so that students and staff are aware of the most effective and safe emergency responses. The Bethel Public Schools has a detailed emergency operations plan which has been formulated to respond to all hazards.

Your cooperation is necessary in any emergency.

Safety Is A Priority

The Bethel Public Schools are committed to making schools safe for students and staff. We work closely with National, State and local safety officials - including police, fire and emergency medical services and public health - to ensure that we are well prepared and that children are protected. We have a comprehensive Emergency Response Plan that makes our staff and our public safety partners respond swiftly should an emergency occur, and we conduct regular training and practice sessions based on that plan.

How Parents Can Prepare For A School Emergency

1. Provide accurate contact information to your child's school, including alternate phone numbers for you and family/ friends you have arranged as your backup. Update your child(ren)'s demographic information in the Parent Portal promptly if this information changes.
2. Talk with your children about the importance of following instructions in the event of an emergency.
3. Tell your children NOT to use cell phones unless permitted. Unauthorized cell phone use could put people at risk.

What To Do During A School Emergency

- Do not come to the school or telephone the school. Telephone lines may be needed for emergency communication. You will be notified of a reunification location, if necessary.
- Get accurate information and directions.



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- * Listen for a phone message (at home, office, or on cell). Check e-mail and text messaging.
- * In the event of a serious emergency, students will be kept at their schools until they are picked up by an identified, responsible adult who has been identified as an emergency contact in PowerSchool which is required to be updated by parents/guardians at the beginning of every school year. Please be sure you consider the following criteria when you authorize another person to pick up your child at school:
 - He/she is 18 years of age or older.
 - He/she is usually home during the day.
 - He/she could walk to school, if necessary.
 - He/she is known to your child.
 - He/she is both aware and able to assume this responsibility.
- * Impress upon your children the need for them to follow the directions of any school personnel in times of an emergency
- * If students are to be kept at school, you will be notified by telephone by our automated message system, SchoolMessenger, via voice, text message, email, and appropriate announcements will be made over the following radio and television stations and our district website listed below.

WLAD	AM	Danbury	800 on the dial
WINE	AM	Brookfield	940 on the dial
WICC	AM	Bridgeport	600 on the dial
WEBE	FM	Bridgeport	108 on the dial
WEZN	FM	Bridgeport	100 on the dial

TV Channel 3, TV Channel 8, & TV Channel 6.

Bethel Public Schools Website – www.bethel.k12.ct.us

About Lockdowns and Evacuations

What is a lockdown?

All school interior doors are locked, hallways are vacated, and students and staff are confined to their classrooms. Building entry or exit is not allowed.

What is lockout?



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During a lockout, all exterior doors are locked. This takes place if a problem occurs outside of the school. Business as usual. Building entry or exit is not allowed.

How will I know if a school is in lockdown?

The main entrance will be locked, and if possible, a sign will be posted on the front door. The emergency phone notification system will be activated as swiftly as possible.

What should I do if there is a lockdown?

Do not go to the school. Do not attempt to enter the building. This may jeopardize student and staff safety. We will notify you when it is safe to enter. Try to remain patient and calm until the lockdown order is lifted.

If the school is evacuated, how will I locate my child(ren)?

Each school has procedures for partial or complete evacuation, including a designated safe location to which students may be transported. Students may either then be transported home from the safe location or you will be directed to go to a specific location where you will be required to sign your child out.

Students will be released only to parents/guardians and persons identified in PowerSchool. During an extreme emergency, students will be released at designated reunion locations on the school campus or elsewhere if necessary. Please be patient and understanding with the student release process. Please instruct your student to remain at school until you or a designee arrives. Because local telephone service may be disrupted, also list an out-of-State contact as an emergency contact in PowerSchool, as calls may still be made out of the area while incoming calls are affected. When the dangerous incident has subsided, an all-clear signal will be given.

Please discuss these matters with your immediate family. Planning ahead will help alleviate concern during emergencies.

By definition, an emergency involves unexpected events and rapidly changing conditions. We train to deal with different kinds of problems. Whether caused by natural forces or humans. However, it is impossible to say in advance exactly how we will respond in any particular case. In general, you should know that we will do what is necessary to protect children first and then inform you as accurately and fully as we can. If a situation is serious enough to require you to leave your home or workplace we will either ask you to pick your child up or we will direct you to a safe place where we can brief you on developments. Please be patient and understand if we are unable to respond to you as completely or quickly as you would wish. Our first priority is your child and the other children in the school.