

## Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 Safety Information

Below is information on safety drills Park Forest – Chicago Heights School District 163 performs annually as well as safety measures the District is implementing.

### **School Safety Drills**

“School safety drill” means a pre-planned exercise conducted by a school.

The purpose is to establish minimum requirements and standards for schools to follow when conducting school safety drills and reviewing school emergency and crisis response plans and to encourage schools and first responders to work together for the safety of children.

#### Types and Requirements

- *School evacuation drills* – Addresses and prepares students and school personnel for situations that occur when conditions outside of the school building are safer than inside a school building. May include but not limited to fire, suspicious items or persons, incidents involving hazardous materials, and bomb threats.
  - Minimum of 3 school evacuation drills during each school year at each school. One of the three includes the participation of the fire department.
- *Bus evacuation drills* – Addresses and prepares students and school personnel for situations that occur when conditions outside of a bus are safer than inside the bus. May include but not limited to fire, suspicious items, and incidents involving hazardous materials.
  - Minimum of 1 bus evacuation drill during each school year at each school and includes instruction in safe bus riding practices for all students.
- *Law enforcement drills* – Addresses and prepares school personnel for situations calling for the involvement of law enforcement when conditions inside a school building are safer than outside of a school building and it’s necessary to protect building occupants from potential dangers in a school building. Law enforcement drills may call for the reverse-evacuation or the lock-down of a school building. Evacuation or reverse evacuation incidents shall include a shooting incident.
  - During each academic year, schools conduct a law enforcement drill to address a school shooting incident according to the district’s emergency and crisis response plans, protocols, and procedures.
- *Severe weather and shelter-in-place drills* – Addresses and prepares students for situations involving severe weather emergencies or the release of external gas or chemicals. May include without limitation severe weather, incidents involving hazardous materials, incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.
  - Minimum of 1 severe weather and shelter-in-place drill during each school year at each school.

### **Building Safety Measures**

- All schools in District 163 utilize a system that visitors must pass through to ensure they are legally eligible to enter our schools.
- During the 2017/2018 school year, District 163 implemented a new security system called Blue Point Alert Solutions. Similar to a fire alarm pull station, Blue Point Alert immediately notifies surrounding police departments at the push of a button in the event of an active threat.
- By the end of the 2018/2019 school year, all schools in District 163 will have secure entryways.