



# MCS D Connections

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Post Lockdown Drill Parent Information • 2018

## For Parents/Guardians

A lockdown drill was conducted in your child's school today. This communication is intended to supply you with additional information to help you talk with your child regarding school safety.

Open communication between home and school is critical to the safety and well-being of our students and your children. Let us know if you have a concern or question about school policies, your child's safety, or the safety of their friends.

## School Violence Prevention: Tips for Families & Educators

All schools work to prevent school violence and schools are very safe places. Children, staff, and parents all have an important role in promoting school safety by following procedures and reporting concerns. It is also important to balance sufficient building security with a healthy, nurturing, school environment. The goal is to reassure students that although there is a possibility of violence occurring in a school, the probability of a school experiencing a high-profile violent act is extremely low.

## Helpful Guidelines to Keep in Mind

*Keep explanations developmentally appropriate.*

**Early elementary school** students need brief, simple information that is balanced with reassurances that their school and homes are safe and that adults are there to protect them. Give simple examples of school safety that remind children about exterior doors being locked, child monitoring efforts

on the playground, and emergency drills being practiced so they are prepared if something happens.

**Upper elementary and early middle school** students will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what is being done at their school. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to provide safe schools and provide concrete examples.

**Upper middle school and high school** students will have strong and varying opinions about the causes of violence in schools and society. They will share concrete suggestions about how to make school safer and how to prevent tragedies in society. Emphasize the role that students have in maintaining safe schools by following school safety guidelines (e.g., not providing building access to strangers, reporting strangers on campus, reporting threats to the school safety made by students or community members, etc.), communicating any personal safety concerns to school administrators, and accessing support for emotional needs.

## Additional Resources

- [Tips for Families & Educators](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists
- [Resources](#) from the National Association of School Psychologists
- [New York State Center for School Safety](#) provides support to schools, families, and communities.
- ["All Kids Count" video](#) sponsored by the Department of Justice.

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