



SCHOOL SAFETY POLICY

Merit Preparatory Academy

Purpose

The best way to be prepared for any emergency is prevention. To that end, Merit Preparatory Academy has implemented safety strategies to ensure our school safety efforts.

1. Dozens of cameras, both inside and outside of campus, provide constant surveying
2. Exterior doors remain locked during and after school hours
3. Visitors / guardians are required to check in at the Front Office with a valid ID
4. All-call / texts are utilized for all-school communications in emergencies
5. Reunification protocols are in place according to the school's Emergency Operations Plan

Policy and Procedures

Every year we train all school staff and faculty on our emergency protocols. We are constantly updating our training to make sure every person who works in our schools is ready for an emergency according to state code 53G-8-802. During the training, staff members (and students) walk through procedures for various emergency scenarios (eg. fire, active shooter, lockdown, shelter in place, etc). This also includes the support for those displaying signs of mental illness, including suicide (see Merit Crisis Plan). Having staff and students members familiar with these protocols is crucial to making sure our students know what to do in the event of an emergency. This allows our school to disseminate evidence information effectively

We use a mass communication system that allows school administrators and staff to communicate with each other (Administration with law enforcement) during an emergency. Merit has adopted the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) as part of our school safety plans. The SRP includes simple statements and instructions for students and employees to keep them as safe as possible during an emergency. This includes alerting, locking down, evacuating, and/or holding. Merit communicates regularly with local Law Enforcement, planning walk-throughs and participation in emergency drills.

Merit Preparatory Academy Administration and Board members collaborate in developing and utilizing an annual School Climate Survey used to assess stakeholder perception of the school environment. The data is used to revise practices, policies and training guiding decision-making in school safety, learning environment, and general improvement free of harassment and discrimination.

Board Approved: 4/18/23