

What can I do as a parent in the event of an active intruder in the school?

Know that in a crisis, phone lines can become jammed and access to the school will be restricted. The District will initiate communication as quickly as possible and provide instructions for reuniting you with your child through a secure process.

To ensure you receive timely updates, please make sure your **CONTACT INFORMATION** is *always* current. Notify the school of any changes to your address, telephone numbers, and emergency contacts.

Frequently ask your child about the drills and training that they have practiced at school.

What else can I do?

You can also emphasize with your child the importance of:

1. Listening to all information that comes across the intercom/Public Announcement (PA) system.
2. Following the instructions of the teacher or any person in charge.
3. Taking all drills seriously so that they are prepared and know what to do in the event of an actual emergency.
4. Reporting to an adult when outside doors are propped open or left open for others.
5. Informing an adult when they know someone has plans to bring a weapon to school, whether they believe them or not.
6. Informing an adult, if they believe someone has brought a weapon to school whether they saw it or not.

In addition:

1. Have frequent discussions with your child regarding their feelings about active intruder situations or safety concerns.
2. Create safety plans with your child for your home, when they go outside to play or if they get lost.

Practicing personal safety is everyone's responsibility.

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Safety Tips for Parents

Talking to Your Child about Active Intruder Situations



What is Option-Based Active Intruder Training?

The Hazelwood School District has adopted option-based active intruder protocols based on the recommendation of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. These departments recommend that all school districts teach students and staff options which may be available to them in a dangerous intruder situation.

The option-based active intruder program primarily used by the District is the 4E concept. The 4Es are: **E**ducate, **E**vade, **E**scape, and **E**ngage.

The **EDUCATE** option is where students in the Hazelwood School District learn and practice methods such as escaping and barricading. They also learn how to keep their school safe by observing and reporting when they see or hear something wrong.

Students will also hear about the **EVADE** option that can be used if the intruder is too close for students to safely exit the building. This is practiced by locking doors and understanding what it means to barricade a room.

Students practice the **ESCAPE** option. This method is used when students and staff have a safe, quick exit path to leave the building.

The **ENGAGE** option is not part of the elementary training but is taught and practiced at the middle and high school levels. Students will be told that they have the option of distracting an intruder when their life is in imminent danger and how to use this option to maximize their chances of survival. *Engaging is only used as a last resort.*

Frequently Asked Questions

What should I say to my child if they have concerns about an active intruder coming into their school?

While the subject of active intruders and practicing options can be unsettling for students and staff, our ultimate goal is survival.

If your child is concerned that something like this might happen at their school, remind them that it is necessary to be prepared and practice active intruder drills just as they do fire drills.

Principals and teachers will help students learn how to think and react in an emergency situation.

Why did the District change to an option-based active intruder model instead of just locking down?

In the past, locking down was the only response to an active intruder. However, research has shown that allowing staff and students to have options when dealing with active intruders will increase the chances of surviving the incident.

What if my child or I have specific questions or concerns about the active intruder information?

If you or your child have any questions or concerns about the topic, feel free to contact your child's teacher, counselor, or principal.

Make sure your child also knows that he/she should tell an adult right away if anyone talks about hurting others, themselves, or obtaining any type of weapon, even if they think the person is joking.

Students should also report any potential safety hazards to an adult such as a fire, tripping hazard, an unidentified person in the school building, social media threats or rumors of safety concerns.

What type of emergency drills do students in the Hazelwood School District practice?

All students in HSD practice at least 30 drills annually. These consist of at least:

- ◇ 10 Fire drills
- ◇ 4 Active Intruder Drills
- ◇ 4 Bomb Threat Drills
- ◇ 4 Earthquake Drills
- ◇ 4 Intruder Lockdown Drills
- ◇ 4 Tornado Drills

Why should my child participate in active intruder drills?

Drills are a way for students and staff to practice and be prepared to act in a crisis. Active intruder drills are clearly identified as "Only a Drill", and we have members of our staff who are trained to assist students with special needs. All students should be trained so that they are not only able to use these skills taught at school, but also in any dangerous situation they may encounter outside of school.

I have heard my child talk about the rally point — what is that?

All HSD schools practice evacuating to an off-site location called a **rally point**. The rally point is a term used to describe the predetermined location that staff and students are evacuated to when there is an emergency situation inside the school which requires them to go to a safe place off campus. The students will all be shown where the rally point is and how to get there. This location cannot be disclosed for obvious safety reasons.