

Southern York County School District

Emergency Drills

Southern York County School District holds several types of drills throughout the school year to ensure we are prepared in the event of an emergency. These include security, shelter in place, fire, reverse evacuation, severe weather, and bus evacuation drills. Drills are conducted in partnership with the Southern Regional Police Department.

We also have security procedures in place to identify visitors and allow entry into schools. All school doors remain locked throughout the day. As always, the safety of your children is our top priority.

Security drills

Precautionary and lockdown drills occur several times throughout the year. Staff will announce that a drill is taking place. Staff and students move away from doors and windows. Selected staff and/or Southern Regional Police Department officers walk through the hallways to ensure the classroom doors are secured. During precautionary drills students and staff clear the hallways and classroom instruction continues. During a lockdown drill students and teachers are instructed to remain quiet and stop instruction. These drills typically last less than 15 minutes.

Shelter in place drill

The shelter in place drill prepares students and staff for threats that occur outside the building, such as flooding or a chemical spill. This drill is typically completed in less than five minutes.

Fire drill

Fire drills occur once a month. The fire alarm sounds and students and staff evacuate the school in an orderly fashion. Attendance is taken and students and staff return to class once staff are informed that the drill is over. These drills typically last less than five minutes.

Reverse evacuation

Reverse evacuation drills are typically held in conjunction with other drills. Their purpose is to quickly move staff and students indoors and away from a potential outdoor hazard such as severe weather or a suspicious person, etc.

Severe weather drill

Severe weather drills are used to prepare students and staff to seek shelter indoors and move away from windows. This drill is typically completed in less than five minutes.

Bus evacuation

Bus evacuation drills are held twice each school year. Bus drivers show students how to perform a variety of tasks. These tasks include finding emergency telephone numbers, locating the first aid kit, correctly using the fire extinguisher, locating and using the radio, operating the front and emergency doors, safely exiting the bus, and assembling in a safe location. Each bus evacuation drill is typically completed in five to ten minutes.