



LAKE BLUFF DISTRICT 65 SAFETY GUIDE

Letter from Austin Johnson, Director of Safety and Security



The safety and well-being of students, staff and community are our top priority. We recognize that students and staff learn, teach, and reach their fullest potential only when they feel safe and are mentally well.

This guide is intended to highlight our many safety initiatives and educate you on ways you can help us prioritize safety in our schools each day. Our schools are committed to continuous improvements in safety and security, regularly updating protocols and incorporating the latest best practices to protect students and staff. We will continue to work toward our mission to provide every student a diverse, quality education with a safe and secure environment.

In this guide, you will find:

- Three Components of Safety: Physical Safety, Social Emotional Wellbeing, and Online Safety

- Types of School Emergencies & Crisis Communication Plans
- Resources Available to Students, Staff, and Families
- How To Talk To Your Student About Safety

In a world with ever-changing challenges and dangers, it is essential that our entire community is united in supporting our students. Please help us in these efforts. If you ever see or hear of a concern that our schools should be aware of, please do not hesitate to reach out using the tools here and on our website, or email, call, or stop by and see an administrator.

Thank you for your partnership,

Austin Johnson

Director of Safety and Security

Lake Bluff Elementary School District 65,

Libertyville School District 70

THREE COMPONENTS OF SAFETY



Physical Safety

Physical safety refers to the protection of everyone who steps foot on our campus — including students, staff, families and the community — from violence, theft, and exposure to weapons or other threats. Physical safety ensures a secure learning environment. Some ways we secure the physical safety of our schools include:

- Secured entrances
- Door Locking Systems
- Secure Visitor Policy With ID Scan
- Safety Planning with Lake Bluff Police Department and Fire Department, including Lockdowns, Emergency Drills, and Community Firearm Safety Training



Social-Emotional Wellness

Social-emotional health is the ability to understand and manage our emotions and to form social connections and relationships with those around us. When students and staff are healthy both socially and emotionally, it reduces the chances for a variety of safety incidents. Here are a few ways we support the social-emotional wellness of our students and staff:

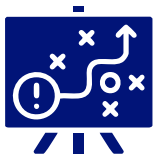
- Family Action Network
- Team of Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, and School Psychologists to Support Students
- Mental Health Support Services Offered to Staff
- Community Events, Task Forces, and Book Clubs
- Community Partners like True North Educational Cooperative 804
- Resources like Safe2Help, and ReferralGPS Lake County (see page 5)



Internet Safety & Security

Technology is an integral part of life in the 21st century. Our schools teach students to use technology safely and to protect the district's network from viruses and other cyber threats.

- Gaggie is used to monitor student email and student Drive usage
- ForceSafe enables age appropriate filters for YouTube on student devices with only teacher-selected videos available for student viewing
- An AI platform monitors LB65's network security for external cyber threats and unusual activity



CRISIS GUIDE AND SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS PLAN

In the event of an emergency, the safety of all students and staff is our top priority. We ask every family—parents, guardians, and students—to stay informed and prepared by familiarizing themselves with the school's emergency procedures. By knowing what to expect and following guidelines, we can work together to ensure a swift, calm, and coordinated response in any situation.

To Best Prepare For an Emergency, Parents/Guardians Should:

1. **Keep Emergency Contacts Updated:** Make sure your contact information, including authorized pick-up persons, is always accurate and current.
2. **Know Where to Find Updates:** Familiarize yourself with the school and district websites, social media pages, and other channels (like mass notifications and SMS texts) where emergency information will be posted.
3. **Limit Cell Phone Use During an Emergency:** Remind your child not to use their cell phone during an emergency unless a teacher or adult instructs them to.
4. **Understand Safety Protocols:** Learn about the school and district's safety protocols for different situations, and discuss with your child the importance of following procedures during emergencies.



DURING a School Emergency

1. **DO Trust the School's Response:** Rest assured, the school's first priority is protecting students. Communication will follow as soon as possible.
2. **DO Stay Calm and Informed:** Remain calm and monitor official information sources for updates.
3. **DO NOT Go to the School:** Do not rush to the school; phone lines, staff, and roads need to stay clear for emergency responders. Parents will not be allowed on campus during an emergency.
4. **DO NOT Call or Text Your Child:** Sounds, vibrations, or conversations may increase risk depending on the emergency at hand. Students must focus on instructions from trained staff, and again, phone lines need to remain open.

AFTER a School Emergency

1. **Follow Directions for Reunification:** Parents and guardians will be directed to a specific location to reunite with their child.
2. **Reunification Plan:** Students will only be released to parents, guardians, or pre-designated contacts listed in emergency records. This process may take some time. Listen and Reassure: Acknowledge your child's concerns and reassure them that they are safe and that additional safety measures are being taken.
3. **Seek Support if Needed:** If concerns continue, reach out to school or mental health professionals for assistance.

EMERGENCY TERMINOLOGY

HOLD IN PLACE

A situation INSIDE the building that requires immediate action for all to stay put. **This is non-life threatening.**

SECURE THE BUILDING & TEACH

A situation OUTSIDE the building that requires all persons to remain inside.

LOCKDOWN

Incident occurring INSIDE the building requiring everyone to lock down in a safe place.

RUN HIDE DEFEND

Armed person or active shooter INSIDE or OUTSIDE of the school.

EVACUATION

There is an unsafe situation INSIDE requiring all persons to exit the building — fire, chemical spill, gas leak, etc.

SEVERE WEATHER

Severe weather that has the potential to cause structural damage.









AN IMPORTANT NOTE ON SAFE GUN STORAGE

Research shows that secure firearm storage reduces the risk of self-inflicted and accidental injuries among children and teens by up to 85%. Storing firearms securely, separate from ammunition, protects children at home and in the community. **Be SMART** promotes responsible actions to prevent gun injuries and normalize safety conversations:

Be SMART:

- **SECURE** all guns in homes and vehicles
- **MODEL** responsible behavior around guns
- **ASK** about unsecured guns in other homes
- **RECOGNIZE** the role of guns in suicides
- **TELL** your peers to Be SMART!

RESOURCES

 1-844-4-SAFE-IL (1-844-472-3345)		    Available in the app stores for iPhones & Android. Search "Safe2HelpIL"
 info@Safe2HelpIL.com	 72338 (SAFE2)	
 www.Safe2HelpIL.com	Always Confidential, Always Available. Safe2Help Illinois	

Safe2Help

Safe2Help connects directly with a crisis counselor, available 24/7. Students can report concerns about bullying, harassment, unsafe behaviors, or worries about classmates through Safe2Help. If a threat is identified or if a situation is deemed critical, Safe2Help will notify our school teams and/or emergency dispatch law enforcement.



Referral GPS – Mental Health Resources for Families

Through Referral GPS, families can access thousands of behavioral health professionals for support with anxiety, depression, stress management, and parenting. Financial aid from the Lake County Treatment Fund is available for therapy costs, and some providers accept various insurance plans to make support more accessible.

Supporting Students' Well-Being



Our Support System

School social workers, psychologists, and community partners like True North and LEAD provide essential guidance for students with social-emotional needs.



Collaborative Approach

Staff teams meet regularly to identify and support students with tailored strategies.



Parent Involvement

Parents are vital partners. If your child needs extra support, reach out to their teacher or a school social worker.



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How To Talk To Your Child About School Safety

According to the American Psychological Association, parents/caregivers are the single most influential people in a child's life when it comes to making them feel safe and equipping them with the resources and skills they need to be successful as adults.

Here are some ways you can ensure your child stays safe at school and wherever they go.



1. See Something, Say Something

Teach your child to tell a trusted adult if something feels off. Remind them they can always talk to a teacher, counselor, or you, and that Safe2Help is there to support them.



2. Make Time to Talk

Asking about their day shows you care and encourages open, honest sharing.



3. Review Safety Procedures

Adjust for your child's age. Young children can learn basics like looking both ways before crossing; older kids should know about locked doors, emergency drills, and safe online behavior.



4. Tips for Reassuring Your Student

- **Acknowledge Their Feelings:** It's okay to feel scared or nervous sometimes.
- **Explain Safety Measures:** Share simple steps schools take to stay safe, like locked doors and buddy systems.
- **Emphasize Support Networks:** Remind them there are trusted adults to help.
- **Highlight Positive Experiences:** Recall times they've felt happy and safe at school.
- **Model Confidence:** Show calmness and confidence about school safety.
- **Encourage Open Communication:** Assure them they can talk to you anytime.