



Emergency Operations Plan

The Tuscaloosa County School System takes student, staff, and community safety as a high priority. Our most important role is to provide measures and safety precautions that will keep our students, staff, and visitors safe while on any school campus. Working in close consultation with the Alabama State Department of Education and the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Department, safety plans and procedures are developed to achieve that goal.



Heightened Awareness (Get Your Attention)

This means a potential MAY exist for an unusual situation and all parties should have heightened awareness to react as needed.

- Follow school's communication plan for information.
- Limit movement to and from your classroom.
- Be accountable for all students.
- Be on the lookout for unusual behavior both in and out of the school.
- Check exterior doors to make sure they are secure.

Secure Your Area of Responsibility (Classroom, hallway, etc.)

Specific incident within your area of responsibility (medical, threat to self, or others).

- Execute **Alert** methods.
- Secure all people within your immediate area (may require you to move to a more secure area).
- Lock or Secure doors.
- Monitor/use communication devices.
- Release by intercom or other personal contact.

Lock-Out (On Alert)

A potential threat or danger does exist within the community/neighborhood and all parties should be aware to react as needed.

- Execute **Alert** methods.
- Secure all people within the building
- Lock external doors.
- Cover windows.
- Stay in secure area within the building until further notice from administration or law enforcement.
- Monitor/use communication devices.
- Leave unsecure areas such as fields, gym, playground, or library to a secure area.
- Continue with instruction.
- Release via intercom.

Lockdown (Immediate Threat)

Recognition of Danger. Take immediate action using the safest and best option for survival.

- Execute **Alert** methods.
- Secure yourself and others by assessing and using available information to decide if you should: HIDE (Secure and/or Barricade), RUN (Intelligent Escape), or FIGHT (Defend and Protect).

HIDE: (Secure and/or Barricade)

Lock doors; Lights off; Barricade entry; Quiet; Stay in place.

RUN: (Informed Escape)

Evacuate to a safer location; Remain with your group; Call 911 when safe; Follow HIDE protocol.

FIGHT: (Defend and Protect)

As a matter of survival, engage the intruder with any means necessary.

- Monitor/use communication devices.
- Release only by administration or law enforcement.