

February 26, 2018



Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

Calallen ISD administration believes the safety of our students is of utmost concern. Priority lies in ensuring a safe and secure learning environment to foster the growth and development of all students. In light of recent events, the district will strive to be more transparent in our communication with parents/guardians and the manner in which we will continue to strengthen security measures on our campuses.

The district currently has security measures in place, including the employment of armed, off-duty Corpus Christi Police Department officers. We have undergone an evaluation of our current security measures and are implementing additional safety methods. You will continue to see changes to physical structures and procedures to further ensure the safety of students. As security increases, current practices will be changing and may result in inconveniences that are necessary for safety.

As a new precautionary measure, when there is a need to communicate critical and timely information, the district will utilize the following protocols:

1. All messages will be delivered via:
  - a. District social media including Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram; and
  - b. Blackboard messages will be sent to all parents and/or guardians district-wide regardless of campus affiliation.
2. The messages will include pertinent detailed information including a description of the event as well as the location.

The communication of messages will be determined based on how broadly they affect the educational environment. Routine disciplinary actions and issues will not warrant a public notification. If you are not currently receiving campus/district communication via email, contact your student's campus to update information.

Currently, Calallen ISD exercises a proactive approach to implementing safety protocols. All campuses conduct training and drills to provide students and staff with opportunities to prepare for emergency situations. The following drills are conducted on each of the district's campuses:

1. Fire
2. Lockdown
3. Shelter in Place (Severe Weather and Chemical Incident)
4. Intruder / Active Shooter

Each campus exercises these drills on a frequency as determined by law and need. Calallen ISD staff are trained routinely and effectively. Moving forward, all campuses will communicate with parents via Blackboard the week in which an Intruder/Active Shooter drill is scheduled. Students will be made aware that it is in fact **A DRILL**. During the execution of drills, campus access to parents/visitors will be limited or prohibited. Please be understanding and patient during these important training exercises.

Once again, the district is committed to the safety of students and strives to remain informed and implement innovative solutions. We encourage parents to visit with their student(s) regarding security measures so that together, we can ensure a safe and productive environment. We believe that a strong partnership between school and home is vital in our ever-changing world and we appreciate our partnership with parents and the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Arturo Almendarez'.

Arturo Almendarez, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools  
Calallen ISD