



## 2024 Back to School Safety Tips

### Elementary

**1. Helpers and Safe Adults**

Be familiar with campus security and other adults who can help you during an emergency.

**2. Understand School Safety Expectations**

Know what your school wants you to do when an emergency happens. Emergencies include evacuations, lockdowns and mental health/medical incidents.

**3. Talk to Each Other About Safety**

People on campus and people off campus should keep an open dialogue about safety concerns and responses. We're all in this together!

**4. Practice Personal Safety**

Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to what's going on around you and know who to tell if something doesn't seem right.

**5. Use Safe Transportation**

Whether it's by bus, car, bike, carpool or walking, make sure you know how you get to and from school is safe, reliable and trusted.

**6. Tell Loved Ones Where You Are**

Share your location with loved ones. Let them know where you're going, with whom and when you're expected to arrive. Use the buddy system whenever you can.

**7. Secure Your Stuff**

Be responsible for your personal belongings, textbooks, lunchboxes and electronics. Keep track of your stuff, always put it in a safe place and remember where you put it.

**8. Report Suspicious Activity**

Do your part to keep school safe. If you see something that doesn't look or feel right, say something to a trusted adult.

## 9. Bullying is not Okay

Know what bullying and cyber-bullying are, how to detect them and who to tell if you are a witness or a victim.

## 10. Don't Forget Cybersecurity

Being safe online is important, too! Don't share passwords, don't talk to strangers, be mindful of online bullying and never reveal your location or other details about your life.



## Middle and High School

### 1. Know Trusted Adults

Be familiar with campus security and other adults who can help you during an emergency.

### 2. Understand School Safety Expectations

Know what your school wants you to do in an emergency. Emergencies include evacuations, lockdowns and mental health/medical incidents.

### 3. Prioritize Safety, Not Capturing Content

If unsafe activity breaks out, move to safety, not to record. Your wellbeing is more important than "likes." Alert adults who can help, instead of your followers.

### 4. Practice Personal Safety

Be aware of your surroundings. Pay attention to what's going on around you and know who to tell if something doesn't seem right.

## 5. Use Safe Transportation

Whether it's by bus, car, bike, carpool or walking, make sure you know how you get to and from school is safe, reliable and trusted.

## 6. Tell Loved Ones Where You Are

Share your location with loved ones. Let them know where you're going, with whom and when you're expected to arrive. Use the buddy system whenever you can.

## 7. Secure Your Stuff

Be responsible for your personal belongings, textbooks, backpack and electronics. Keep track of your stuff, always put it in a safe place and remember where you put it.

## 8. Report Suspicious Activity

Do your part to keep school safe. If you see something that doesn't look or feel right, say something to a trusted adult.

## 9. Understand Anti-Bullying Policies

Know what bullying and cyber-bullying are, how to detect them and who to tell if you are a witness or a victim.

## 10. Don't Forget Cybersecurity

Being safe online is important. Don't share passwords, don't talk to strangers, be mindful of online bullying and never reveal your location or other details about your life.



## Higher Education

### 1. Understand Campus Safety and Security Services

- Be familiar with the security and safety services on campus. Know who to call in an emergency and how to use services such as escorts or shuttles.

### 2. Be Aware of Your Surroundings

- Get to know the safest routes around campus, vary your routes and stick to well-lit areas and populated parts of campus – especially when walking alone or at night. Be aware of the people and situations around you. Know what to do if something is suspicious or doesn't feel right.

### 3. Secure Living Spaces

- Keep doors and windows secured. Never allow strangers or unauthorized visitors into the building or your room. Use approved entrances and exits for routine travel and emergency exits for emergencies.

### 4. Use Campus Resources

- Know the resources available to you on campus and in the surrounding community, including wellness programs; counseling; mental health services; academic support; and emergency notification systems. Use the campus's safety app and/or emergency notification system to stay informed.

### 5. Prioritize Safety, Not Capturing Content

- If unsafe activity breaks out, move to safety, not to record. Your wellbeing is more important than "likes." Alert adults who can help, instead of your followers.

### 6. Be Cautious Online

- Be careful what you share online – particularly on social media and dating apps. Avoid sharing your location details. Be mindful of cyber threats, online bullying and inappropriate solicitation.

### 7. Practice Responsible Drinking

- If you're of legal drinking age and choose to drink, do so responsibly. Don't provide alcohol to minors, follow your campus alcohol policies and use a designated driver or rideshare. Be aware of the signs of intoxication or alcohol poisoning in others and know what to do to get them help.

### 8. Secure Personal Belongings

- Textbooks and electronic devices are expensive and make great targets for thieves. Keep track of your stuff, always put it in a safe place and remember where you put it.

### 9. Use Safe Transportation

- Have a personal transportation plan that consists of multiple options for a ride if need be. Whether that's the campus shuttle service, rideshare options, a taxi or a trusted sober friend, know what to do to get home

safely. Share your location with a friend and use the buddy system to let others know where you're going and when you've arrived safely.

#### **10. Report Suspicious Activity**

- If you see something, say something! We all have a responsibility to help safeguard our communities. Get to know what resources exist to make reports – including anonymous reports.

