



# TUNKHANNOCK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

## Understanding our Security Terms



While schools statistically remain one of the safest places in the country, both natural and human-caused events require all school districts to prepare for school-based emergencies.

All school districts in Pennsylvania have developed “all hazards” plans. These “all-hazards” plans provide responses to a multitude of situations including natural, man-made, and technological events that might occur and create an emergency within our school district. The purpose of an “all hazards” plan is to reduce uncertainty and facilitate good decision making when emergencies or potential emergencies present themselves. Our plans have been developed in cooperation with school officials, community agencies, local and state law enforcement, and emergency responders, all of which would play an important role in a school emergency situation.

Please note that specific procedures of the school district are considered secure and sensitive documents. These documents will not be publicly released because they contain information that could jeopardize the safety of our students in an emergency.

We use specific terms when discussing emergency situations or potential emergency situations that may occur in our school district.

The first term is **evacuation**.

- Certain emergencies may require students to exit the school building. That would be most common in the case of a fire or a smoke situation in the school building. After an evacuation, students are generally permitted to reenter the building and resume educational activities (think of a fire drill). Off-site evacuations may be conducted when it's not safe for students to remain on campus. If an evacuation occurs that will require reunification, all parents/guardians will receive instructions on where and how to reunite with your child.

The second term is **lockdown**.

- A lockdown may take place if an actual or potential threat is identified at or near the school. All school doors, both external and internal, will remain locked and access to the building classrooms will be controlled by the school administration or law enforcement. During a lockdown, no one is permitted to enter or leave the school until the situation is resolved. These situations may involve the need for first responders to come to the school to assist school officials.

The third term is **restricted movement**.

- A restricted movement is much less restrictive than a lockdown. Occasionally, a restricted movement may be called for a student or adult having a medical issue, a pre-planned security event, or a student's elopement from a classroom. During this time, students will remain in classrooms until the event causing the restricted movement is resolved. Classroom instruction and activities continue as normal. During a restricted movement, no immediate danger exists to the school. These situations are relatively short, usually lasting just a few minutes, and are terminated quickly by the school officials.

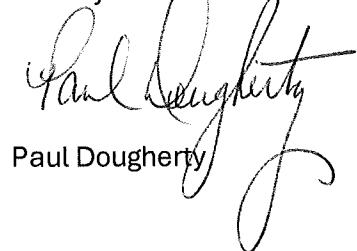
The fourth term is **shelter-in-place**.

- A shelter-in-place is very uncommon and most likely to occur during severe weather. For example, a shelter-in-place may be implemented in the case of a severe thunderstorm or tornado warning where danger to students is imminent. Students may be moved to safer locations within the school to maximize their safety from high winds and potential building damage. At the end of the day, if severe weather is being called forecasted, students may be held at the school as a protective action rather than be placed on buses. Other types of severe weather that may require students to be held at the school could include severe flooding, flash flooding, or other types of situations that may prevent the ability to get the students home safely.

Our number one priority will always be the safety and welfare of our students.

If you have questions about any specific school within our district, please contact the building principal. Our school administrative teams are always willing to help.

Thank you.



Paul Dougherty