

Charles County Public Schools

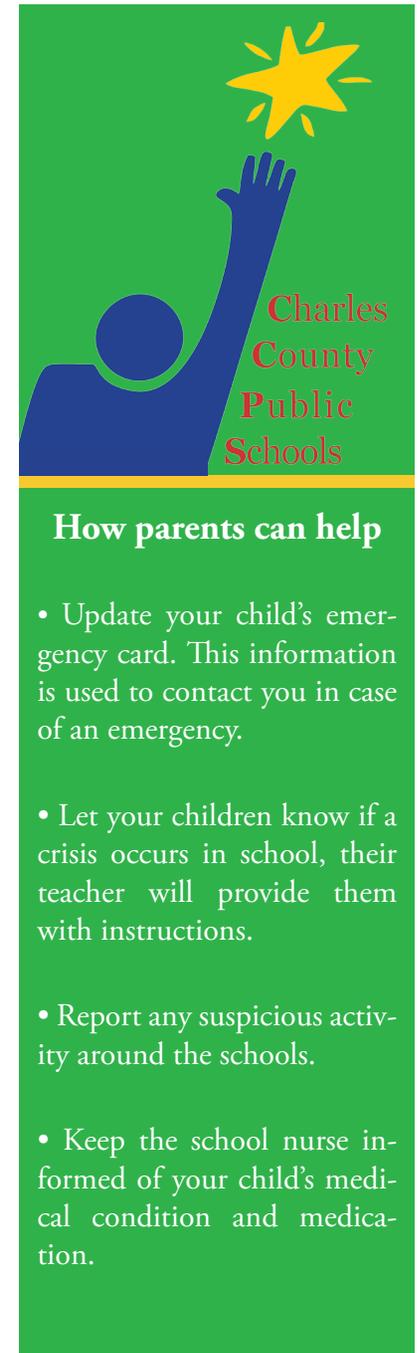
A Look at School Safety

Charles County Public Schools (CCPS) regularly adapts its crisis response planning and is dedicated to the safety of its students and employees. The school system spends considerable time and effort in planning and practicing safety and security measures at all schools and centers. Schools are still one of the safest places for children to be. We plan for a crisis; however, we also spend time and resources developing programs to prevent such events.

At the school level

- The Charles County Sheriff's Office has assigned a school resource officer to each high school and middle school. These officers also service the feeder elementary schools.
- School resource officers provide training to staff in all areas of crisis intervention and emergency response.
- All schools and centers conduct regular drills (fire, bus evacuation, shelter-in-place, lockdown, active shooter, bomb and severe storm threats).
- All schools are required to develop emergency response plans and review and revise them annually.
- All school offices are equipped with radios to improve communications with buses and pupil services personnel.
- There is a telephone in every classroom and a weather alert radio in each school.
- All employees wear identification badges. All visitors must sign in and wear a visitors badge. Visitation rules require that visitors are escorted to classrooms and visits are prearranged.

- Portable radios are available for use in school buildings, playgrounds and on school fields.
- Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) have been placed in all high schools and more than 250 staff members are trained in AEDs and CPR.
- There are electronic lightning detectors in all high schools.
- There is a school nurse at each school. School nurses work with students to keep them healthy and in class. The school health program provides health care services for all students.
- Charles County Public Schools prohibits all persons, other than law enforcement officers, from carrying or possessing a handgun, firearm, knife, or deadly weapon of any kind on school property, regardless of whether or not the person has a permit to carry the weapon.
- Charles County Public Schools maintains a website on safety and security for parents and community use. The website is located at www.ccboe.com/inclementweather/emergency_prep.cfm and contains information related to emergency preparedness.



How parents can help

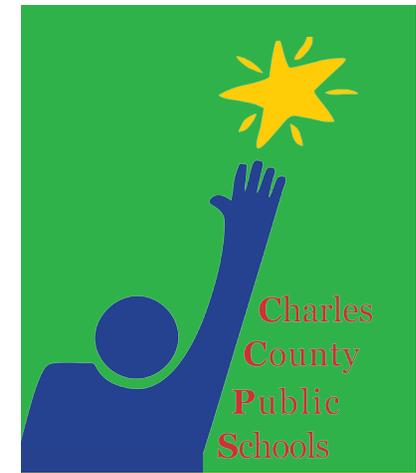
- Update your child's emergency card. This information is used to contact you in case of an emergency.
- Let your children know if a crisis occurs in school, their teacher will provide them with instructions.
- Report any suspicious activity around the schools.
- Keep the school nurse informed of your child's medical condition and medication.

School Safety (continued)

At the system level

- The Superintendent meets regularly with the Charles County Sheriff to coordinate emergency planning and review issues. There are frequent mid-level staff meetings concerning emergency response topics, planning and intelligence between CCPS and the Sheriff's Office.
- The school system has a comprehensive crisis management plan. Selected school officials have attended training with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS), the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA), the U.S. Secret Service, the FBI, Executive Protective Services, county emergency management personnel, the Charles County Health Department and CCPS staff.
- The CCPS emergency plan is approved by the Maryland State Department of Education.
- CCPS holds regular emergency preparedness training and participates in county and state drills.
- All employees are issued a badge and are required to wear it while on school property for easy identification regardless of which building they are visiting.
- Radios have been placed in all buses to provide communication with the central transportation office and school offices.

- The school system provides training for school staff on the crisis plans and procedures each school year.
- Staff regularly conduct safety assessments at each school and center. This includes looking for possible hazards both inside and outside the building.
- Appropriate staff is trained on the behavioral signs that indicate a child is at risk of violent acts. Training is provided for crisis teams that include pupil personnel workers, school psychologists and counselors on prevention/intervention.
- Each year, school administrators review system policies for school discipline/behaviors/dress codes with staff and provide the *Code of Student Conduct*, which lists unacceptable behaviors and the consequence, to all students/parents at the beginning of each school year.
- The school system has established partnerships with other emergency service agencies, including local fire and rescue companies.
- Parents and staff members receive emergency information, when needed, through a variety of communication methods including television, the Internet, voice mail and e-mail.



Crime Solvers

- Crime Solvers is available at each middle and high school.
- The program is a partnership with the Charles County Sheriff's Office and the Charles County Crime Solvers program.
- Tip boxes are located in each school.
- The school resource officer investigates all tips.
- If a tip leads to an arrest or school suspension, the person providing the tip may receive a monetary award.