

Did you know that October is School Safety Month? Did you know that Governor Hickenlooper has designated October 16-22, 2011, to be Colorado Safe Schools Week? Did you know that in 2011, the Colorado legislative session passed eight bills concerning school safety?

In cooperation with the Colorado Department of Public Safety, Durango School District 9-R is working to get the word out to parents regarding its new standard response protocol for student safety. In honor of School Safety Month, we will be sending you weekly safety messages about and how we can work together for safe schools and successful students.

From bully prevention, to truancy, to emergency communications -- safety is everyone's business. During the course of this school year, students and staff members will be trained in the safety measures as outlined in our Standard Response Protocol (SRP). Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with them.

WHAT EXACTLY IS A STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL (SRP)?

A critical ingredient in the safe school recipe is the uniform classroom response to an incident at school. Weather events, fires, accidents, intruders, and other threats to student safety are scenarios that are planned and trained for by school and district administration and staff. Historically, schools have taken this scenario-based approach to respond to hazards and threats.

The Standard Response Protocol (SRP) is not based on individual scenarios, but on the response to any given scenario. Like the Incident Command System (ICS), SRP demands a specific vocabulary but also allows for great flexibility. The premise is simple --- there are four specific actions that can be performed during an incident. When communicating these actions, the action is labeled with a "term of art" and is then followed by a "directive". Execution of the "action" is performed by active participants --- including students, staff, teachers, and first responders.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT OF ESTABLISHING A STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL (SRP)?

By standardizing the vocabulary, all stakeholders can understand the response and status of an event. For students, this provides continuity of expectations and actions throughout their educational career. For teachers, this becomes a simpler process to train and drill. For first responders, the common vocabulary and protocols establish a greater predictability that persists through the duration of an incident. Parents can easily understand the practices and can reinforce the protocol. Additionally, this protocol enables rapid response determination when an unforeseen event occurs.

The SRP also allows for a more predictable series of actions as an event unfolds. An intruder event may start as a Lockdown, but as the intruder is isolated, first responders would assist as parts of the school go to an "Evacuate to the Gym and Lockdown," and later "Evacuate to the Bus Zone."

WHAT ARE THE 4 ACTIONS IN THE STANDARD RESPONSE PROTOCOL?



WHAT IS "LOCKOUT"?

Lockout is followed by the Directive "Secure the Perimeter" and is the protocol used to safeguard students and staff within the building.

Lockout recovers all students from outside the building, secures the building perimeter and locks all outside doors. This would be implemented when there is a threat or hazard outside of the building. Criminal activity, dangerous events in the community, or even a vicious dog on the playground would be examples of a Lockout response. While the Lockout response encourages greater staff situational awareness, it allows for educational practices to continue with little classroom interruption or distraction.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE TAKEN DURING "LOCKOUT"?

Students ---

- **Return to inside of building**
- **Do business as usual**

Teachers ---

- **Recover students and staff from outside building**
- **Increased situational awareness**
- **Do business as usual**
- **Take roll, account for students**

WHAT IS "LOCKDOWN"?

Lockdown is followed by the Directive "Locks, Lights, Out of Sight" and is the protocol used to secure individual rooms and keep students quiet and in place.

Lockdown is a classroom-based protocol that requires locking the classroom door, turning off the lights and placing students out of sight of any corridor windows. Student action during Lockdown is to remain quiet. It does not mandate locking outside doors. There are several reasons for not locking perimeter doors during a Lockdown. Risk is increased to students or staff in exposed areas attempting to lock outside doors. Locking outside doors inhibits entry of first responders and increases risk as responders attempt to breach doors.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE TAKEN DURING "LOCKDOWN"?

Students ---

- **Move away from sight**
- **Maintain silence**

Teachers ---

- **Lock classroom door**
- **Lights out**
- **Move away from sight**
- **Maintain silence**
- **Wait for First Responders to open door**
- **Take roll, account for students**

WOULD THERE EVER BE A TIME WHEN BOTH A "LOCKOUT" AND "LOCKDOWN" IS CALLED?

Yes. There may be situations where both Lockdown and Lockout need to be performed, but in this case they are identified individually. "Lockout! Secure the Perimeter. Lockdown! Locks, Lights, out of Sight." would be announced on public address. We are in "Lockdown and Lockout" would be conveyed to emergency services or 911.

WHAT IS "EVACUATE"?

Evacuate is always followed by a location, and is the protocol to move students and staff from one location, to a different location in or out of the building.

WHAT ACTIONS ARE TAKEN DURING "EVACUATE"?

Students ---

- **Leave stuff behind**
- **Form a single file line**
- **Take the hands of person in front and behind**
- **Be prepared for alternatives during response**

Teachers ---

- **Grab roll sheet if possible**
- **Lead students to Evacuation Location**
- **Take roll, account for students**

WHAT IS "SHELTER"?

Shelter is always followed by a type and a method and is the protocol for group and self-protection. Shelter is called when the need for personal protection is necessary. Types of Shelter include for tornado, for bomb, and for hazmat. Methods include "Drop, Cover and Hold," "And Seal," and "In Silence."

WHAT ACTIONS ARE TAKEN DURING "SHELTER"?

Students ---

- **Use Appropriate Method**

Teachers ---

- **Use Appropriate Method**
- **Take roll, account for students**

For additional information regarding the Standard Response Protocol, please visit the I Love U Guys Foundation at <http://www.iloveyouguys.org>.