

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CODES

The Charleston County School District (CCSD) utilizes an all-hazards emergency response plan that addresses all phases of the emergency management cycle. There are a variety of situations that may require the initiation of one of the following standard response codes at a school: Code Red, Code Yellow, or Code Green. CCSD faculty and staff members receive ongoing training on the procedures associated with each of these responses.

These descriptions are intended to provide parents and other concerned members of the CCSD community with more information on these standard response codes.

■ Code Red (Emergency Lockdown)

This is the most serious alert school officials can initiate. Code Red means there is a high probability of serious injury or death to students and faculty if immediate action is not taken to secure students safely. This should be accomplished quickly while stopping all school activities.

Various types of incidents may cause a Code Red to be activated; these include but are not limited to:

- An active shooter on or near campus;
- An unwanted, potentially violent intruder on or near the school campus;
- Credible threats received by a school indicating that danger may be imminent.

Schools conduct at least one Code Red drill per school year, which typically occurs within the first 30 days of school.

■ Code Yellow (Administrative Lockdown)

Code Yellow indicates there is a problem within or near the school and that students, faculty, and staff shall remain alert to the possibility that injury could occur if procedures are not followed. This is typically a proactive measure taken by the school to prevent an external event from impacting the safety or security of campus occupants.

Various types of incidents may cause a Code Yellow to be activated; these include, but are not limited to:

- A nearby, off-campus law enforcement response to a potentially dangerous situation (e.g., armed robbery, shots fired call, police pursuit);
- Persons threatening to come on or near campus to cause a disturbance;
- Disturbance within the community or near a school that may increase;
- General disturbance or fight between students;
- On-campus medical concern that requires a public safety response;
- Upset visitors that are causing a disturbance.

In a Code Yellow, students remain inside the building (and sometimes within their classrooms); however, instruction continues normally.

■ Code Green (Bomb Threat Evacuation)

Code Green indicates that an evacuation of the school or an area of the building is necessary to ensure the safety of all students after it has been determined that a credible threat has been received against a school.

■ What Should Parents Do During a School Emergency?

During a campus emergency, CCSD will communicate information to parents as dictated by the incident. This communication will typically be in the form of automated phone calls or text alerts. The following tips are designed to assist CCSD and public safety with their response to the incident:

- Roads and telephone lines need to remain clear for emergency responders and communications. Do not call or respond to the school unless specifically requested.
- Stay close to your phone or other communication device for updates from CCSD or public safety. Monitor official social media accounts and local media.
- Rely on official information being distributed; do not accept rumors as fact.
- Listen out for direction on potential reunification plans for you and your child(ren). Report to the announced reunification site, if requested.