

## FCPS: STUDENT SAFETY

Worried about your child's safety at school? Here are three things that you should know about safety and security in our schools:

- Each Fairfax County school has an emergency preparedness plan that is reviewed and practiced regularly.
- These plans are coordinated with county, state, and federal security plans. The school system works closely with local public safety officials and uses their expertise and intelligence.
- The U.S. Departments of Education and Homeland Security have cited Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) safety and security plans as among the best in the nation. A national study also named FCPS "as perhaps the best prepared school district in the country."

Over time, FCPS has built an integrated emergency response system. Regular safety inspections occur in all FCPS buildings. Training programs are in place for all security personnel and for building-level emergency preparedness teams.

Fairfax County police officers are assigned as school resource officers for each secondary, high, and middle school. A uniformed security presence and security patrols are maintained at elementary schools. Visitor control procedures are in place, and exit door numbers at all schools help police and fire teams respond quickly in emergencies. An FCPS Tip Line (703-658-3636) can take information from individuals who want to remain anonymous.

Every school has specific plans for the reunification of parents and their children in the event of a major emergency. School psychologists, social workers, and counselors—trained in crisis intervention—are available to students and their families in all emergencies.

To communicate with parents and families in a crisis, FCPS uses local radio and television stations and local newspapers, as well as Cox Channel 21, the FCPS web site, and the Keep in Touch e-mail program. Parents are encouraged to sign up for Keep in Touch at the web site: [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).

For more information about safety and security, visit the FCPS Emergency Preparedness and Support page at:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/emergencyplan/>.

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MAINTAINING EXCELLENCE THROUGH WISE INVESTMENT

