

# BAXTER SPRINGS SCHOOLS, USD 508

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David Pendergraft, *Superintendent*  
Carrie Oakes, *Clerk, BOE*  
Leslie Delano, *Superintendent Secretary*



Deanne Binns, *USD 508 School Board President*  
Mary Kirkpatrick, *USD 508 School Board Vice-President*

Dear USD 508 Parents/Guardians:

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issued a State-Wide Variance of the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, K.A.R. 22-18-2(a). The recent passing of House Substitute for Senate Bill 109, took effect July 1, 2018, amended K.S.A. 31-133 with a new legislative initiative requiring 16 emergency preparedness drills during the school year. The changes were made under the "State Fire Marshal" appropriations and are detailed in the appropriations bill:

*That such emergency preparedness drills shall include at least: (1) Four fire drills; (2) three tornado drills conducted pursuant to the tornado procedures established by administrators of public and private schools and educational institutions, except community colleges, colleges and universities and subject to approval by the state fire marshal; and (3) nine crisis drills that shall include, but not limited to, intruder response drills and lockdown drills.*

Current state regulations prohibit emergency preparedness drills from being announced beforehand. Due to the concerns that the emergency drills could scare students, a statewide variance allowing the emergency preparedness drills to be pre-announced with the following stipulation: that the Emergency Preparedness Drill only be announced within 5 minutes of the drill taking place. Lincoln, Central, and the High School/Middle School campuses will take part in 16 emergency preparedness drills during the 2018-19 school year.

What constitutes a crisis drill?

- All students in the school are involved (cannot do a partial school)
- Levels of drills to practice according to district protocol:
  1. Lockout: Secure the Perimeter-Nobody is allowed to come and go from the school.
  2. Lockdown: Classroom doors are locked and students take shelter in the classroom.
  3. Evacuation: Students leave the building to a predetermined site.
  4. Staged Scenario: Teachers are delivered a staged scenario then students and teachers respond according to protocol.

I wanted you as parents/guardians to be aware of the changes that will be occurring in regard to emergency preparedness drills at USD 508 schools. If you have any additional questions about these drills, please contact Superintendent David Pendergraft at (620) 856-2375, HS Principal Cory White at (620) 856-3366, MS Principal Jason Walker at (620) 856-3355, Central Principal Robert Womack at (620) 856-3311 or Lincoln Principal Kenneth Boeckman at (620) 856-3322.

Sincerely

David Pendergraft, Superintendent  
USD 508 Baxter Springs