

Welcome Back, IDEA Families!

A safe school year starts with preparation, partnership, and practice.



Dear IDEA Families,

At IDEA Public Schools, student safety is built into the way our campuses operate each day. Our approach brings together trained campus teams, security personnel, secure building practices, emergency preparedness, regular safety drills, ongoing campus safety reviews, and partnerships with local first responders.

These systems are designed to work together so our schools are prepared not only for everyday safety needs, but also for the unexpected.

Throughout the school year, we want families to have a better understanding of the work happening behind the scenes to support safe schools. Each month, IDEA will share an IDEA Family Connection Newsletter with all families through Remind. Within the newsletter, families will find a dedicated 'Safety Corner' featuring our monthly School Safety update. Each month, this section will highlight a different area of school safety, detail what students and staff are currently practicing on campus, and provide tips for families to continue these important conversations at home.

How IDEA Prepares Students and Staff for Emergencies

IDEA Public Schools has adopted the Standard Response Protocol, or SRP, to create a consistent approach to emergency response across our schools.



The Standard Response Protocol gives students, staff, and first responders a shared set of actions and language to use during an emergency: Hold • Secure • Lockdown • Evacuate • Shelter

Each action is used for a different type of situation.

- **Hold** keeps students and staff in their classrooms while an issue inside the building is addressed.
 - Example: A medical emergency in a hallway or common area.
- **Secure** brings everyone inside and secures the exterior of the school when there is a concern outside the building.
 - Example: Police activity in the surrounding neighborhood.
- **Lockdown** is used when there is a threat or hazard inside the school.
 - Example: An intruder or other immediate threat inside the building.
- **Evacuate** moves students and staff from one location to another when it is safer to leave the building or area.
 - Example: A fire or smoke inside the building.
- **Shelter** is used when specific protective actions are needed because of conditions such as severe weather or another hazard.
 - Example: Severe weather or a tornado warning.

Want to learn more? Visit the [I Love U Guys Foundation's Standard Response Protocol Website](#) for additional information about each action and how the protocol supports school safety.

What Students Practiced This August

Preparedness is strengthened through practice. During August, students participated in two important safety drills: a Fire Evacuation Drill and a Lockdown Drill. These drills gave students and staff an opportunity to practice the actions they would take during an emergency in a safe and controlled setting.

Fire Evacuation Drill

During the Fire Evacuation Drill, students practiced how to safely and calmly exit the building, follow staff directions, report to their designated location, and remain with their class while staff accounted for every student.

This practice helped students become familiar with evacuation routes and reinforced what is expected if the school ever needs to be evacuated.

Lockdown Drill

During the Lockdown Drill, students practiced how to respond if there is a threat or hazard inside the school.

Students practiced quickly moving to a secure location, remaining out of sight, staying quiet, and following the directions of school staff and first responders.

The drill gave students and staff an opportunity to practice these actions in a controlled setting so the procedures become more familiar and they are better prepared if they are ever needed during a real emergency.

Continue the Safety Conversation at Home

Families play an important role in helping students feel comfortable and confident with school safety procedures.

Now that students have participated in their August safety drills, consider asking your child:

- What safety drill did you practice?
- What did your teacher ask you to do?
- What did you learn during the drill?
- Did anything make you feel confused or unsure?
- Do you have any questions you would like to talk about?

These conversations can help reinforce what students practiced at school while giving families an opportunity to answer questions, provide reassurance, and help students feel more confident about school safety procedures.

If your child has questions you are unable to answer, we encourage you to reach out to your campus. We want families to understand our safety practices and feel confident in how IDEA prepares students and staff for emergencies.

Safe Firearm Storage: An Important Family Safety Reminder

Keeping students safe does not stop at the school doors. Safe firearm storage is one important way families can help protect children at home and across our communities.

Texas law requires schools to provide families with information about preventing children from gaining unauthorized access to firearms. Texas Penal Code §46.13 also addresses making a firearm accessible to a child.

If a firearm is kept in your home, take time to review how it is stored and make sure children cannot access it.

Families are encouraged to:

- Store firearms securely in a locked location.
- Keep firearms inaccessible to children and other unauthorized individuals.
- Use appropriate locking or safe-storage devices.
- Talk with children about firearm safety and the importance of never handling a firearm without a responsible adult.
- Periodically review your household's storage practices as children grow and circumstances change.

The Texas Department of Public Safety provides additional information and resources to help families make informed decisions about secure firearm storage.

Learn more: [Texas DPS Statewide Safe Gun Storage Campaign](#)

Taking a few minutes to review how firearms are stored in your home can be an important step in preventing unauthorized access and keeping children safe.

Thank you for partnering with IDEA Public Schools.

We know that families place tremendous trust in us each day when they send their children to school. We honor that trust by continuing to strengthen our safety practices, prepare our students and staff, and work closely with our families and first responders.

Safe schools are built through preparation, consistency, and partnership, and we are committed to each of those every day.

IDEA Public Schools
Safety & Security

SAFE GUN STORAGE CHECKLIST



Make sure you can check ALL the boxes!

- ☐ Firearms are stored locked using a safe gun storage device.
- ☐ Ammunition is safely stored.
- ☐ Access to stored firearms is restricted from unauthorized persons at all times, no matter where the firearm is located.
- ☐ All locking devices that use keys are in a place children and other unauthorized users are unaware of.
- ☐ I have read and understood the laws around my responsibility and liability, as the owner of the gun, should it be used by an unauthorized person such as a child.
- ☐ I have spoken to family members and trusted users asking them to use these safe storage steps. (Consider keeping this checklist near where you store your guns!)
- ☐ When my firearm is taken outside of my home (e.g., in a car), it must still be stored safely. Safe storage of firearms is practiced at all times.
- ☐ Safe storage of firearms is practiced at all times.

THE 1-2-3s OF SAFE GUN STORAGE

1 Store gun securely by using a trigger lock, biometric lock, gun case, strong box, gun cabinet or gun safe.	2 Store and lock ammunition safely.	3 Keep others from getting access to stored firearms 24/7. This includes family, friends, children or other visitors.
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Learn more at SafeGunStorageTexas.com