

Tornadoes and Earthquakes

Tornadoes

A **tornado watch** means weather conditions may cause a tornado to develop. Continue normal operations.

A **tornado warning** means a tornado has been detected. Take cover and put your safety plan into operation. Tornado warnings will be issued by the National Weather Service and sounded by Civil Defense. The warnings will be relayed to school over the Emergency Radio System or by emergency sirens. (Emergency sirens are tested on the first Saturday of each month.)

Tornado warning procedures

During the school day

Take students to the point of greatest safety according to the safety plan.

Near the end of the school day

If there's not sufficient time for students to reach home, hold students at school in the safest area.

Outside

If students are outside, a designated person will blow a whistle two blasts three times then repeat to alert students and staff to seek emergency shelter.

Do not allow students to board vehicles.

"All clear" signals will be relayed to schools over the Emergency Radio System. Dismissal may be delayed at the discretion of the Principal who will determine when it's safe to dismiss students.

Earthquake

- Stay in the building.
- Issue DROP instructions. Assume Civil Defense position.
- If possible, take shelter under desks, tables, or furniture. Hold onto a leg of furniture.
- Stay away from windows, electrical equipment, and cabinets.
- If outdoors, stay clear of buildings, trees, and power lines. Stay outside.

Tornado Warning

If a tornado warning is issued, buses and cars should be delayed and students should remain inside the school for the duration of the warning.

If buses are en route to or from an event when the warning is issued, drivers should proceed as follows.

- Return or continue to the event if not more than five minutes away, unless there is immediate danger.
- Go to the nearest school, if not more than five minutes away. Make certain all students go inside the building.
- If the nearest school is more than five minutes away, file the students off the bus and into the nearest basement or underground shelter.
- If there is immediate danger and no shelter available, file the students off the bus and into the nearest ditch or culvert at least 100 feet away from the bus.