

Safety Terminology

At times the Allegheny County Public Schools may direct schools to lockdown, shelter in place, or evacuate based upon safety evidence evaluated by the administration and often in conjunction with law enforcement officials. In the event these procedures are implemented, ACPS will communicate to parents and the community via the division's parent notification system, media outlets, and the division's social media applications. The following terms provide a framework in understanding the safety procedures in place. Each school has safety plans in place that outline building specific implementation guidance.

Lockdown

A lockdown is ordered when a dangerous person or situation is created on or near a campus.

Here's what happens during a lockdown:

- All doors are locked.
- Students are moved out of the hallways and into the nearest classrooms immediately. They must stay in those rooms until they are cleared to leave by public safety personnel.
- Students and staff are kept away from doors and windows.
- All doors are closed and locked to protect students and staff from the threat.
- All blinds are closed. Lights are off.
- Attendance is taken.
- Everyone remains quiet.

Shelter In Place

Shelter-in-Place is similar to a lockdown, except that the students and staff are allowed to move around inside their classroom or building. They are allowed to have organized and supervised restroom breaks, medical attention, food, and water if necessary. No one is allowed in or out of the building without administrative approval. Shelter in place may be utilized in occasions such as a tornado, earthquake, medical emergency, or community emergency.

Shelter in place in room – no access to hallways for students and staff. Staff continue with routine.

Shelter in place in building – no one may leave the building. Staff continue daily routine with limited movement permitted throughout the building.

Evacuation

Evacuation will be utilized to exit all or part of the building during events such as a fire, bomb threat or flooding.