

**Safe Schools... Building Positive
Places to grow and learn... together.**

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW...

As part of the Safe Schools requirements for schools and the amended Threat Assessment Protocols for the Limestone District School Board, this is information in a condensed form to give you an overview of the efforts made to provide the safe and inclusive education opportunities our students deserve. It's important for all students and parents to be aware of these school safety procedures.

This is, however, only a snapshot of the information available through the Ontario Ministry of Education regarding Safe Schools and Limestone DSB documents. Links to further information are provided within this pamphlet.

“A school should be a place that promotes responsibility, respect, civility, and academic excellence in a safe learning and teaching environment. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, comfortable, and accepted.” – Ministry of Education

**For more information, consult the
websites listed in this brochure
and/or the school's administration.**

Ministry of Education:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/safeschl/eng/index.html>

<http://cal2.edu.gov.on.ca/june2009/LockdownGuidelinesEn.pdf>

Limestone District School Board:

**Admin Procedure 141: Threats to
School Safety**

<http://www.limestone.on.ca/board/documents/procedures/AP-141.pdf>



LDSB SAFETY PROCEDURES



"Students need a safe and inclusive learning environment to focus on their studies and reach their full potential. By making schools safer, we are helping to boost student success."

~ **Leona Dombrowsky**
Former Minister of Education

THREATS TO SCHOOL SAFETY

FOUR LEVELS OF ACTION:

In order to facilitate common understanding among all community partners, school boards across Ontario, police services, Emergency Medical Services, and fire safety officials are using the following terminology:

- 1 . **Shelter in Place** - used for an environmental or weather-related situation where it is necessary to keep all occupants within the school (protecting them from an external situation) Examples: chemical spills, blackouts, explosions or extreme weather.
- 2 . **Hold and Secure** - used when it is desirable to secure the school due to an ongoing situation outside but not related to the school Example: Bank robbery occurring near a school but not on property. School functions normally with exterior doors locked until the situation is resolved.
- 3 . **Lockdown** - used only when there is a major incident or threat of school violence within the school. Overuse or misuse of this high level might result in not taking the lockdown seriously, so please note that **two lockdown drills for each school year will occur.**
- 4 . **Evacuation** – used in the event that students and staff must leave a school building due to some environmental concern in the school. Example: gas leak in the school or fire.

PREPAREDNESS, SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR ALL

All schools must establish procedures for Shelter in Place, Hold & Secure, Lockdown, and Evacuation. Staff and students will be trained in how to implement the procedures. As with fire drills, lockdown drills will be held without the prior awareness of students and/or staff.

“Lockdown plans and drills are now just as essential for student and staff safety as fire drills. It is of key importance that persons within the school building and the police services personnel responding to an emergency know what is being done by each party to ensure a safe outcome.” Ben Levin, Deputy Minister of Education, June 2009

LDSB THREAT ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL

“The Limestone District School Board and Community Partners are committed to making our schools safe for students and staff. As a result the Limestone District School Board will respond to all student behaviours that pose a potential risk to other students, staff and members of the community. It is hoped that support for early intervention measures by the school board and community partners will prevent school violence.”

See the document:
http://www.limestone.on.ca/Safe_Schools/documents/Community_Threat_Assessment_Protocol.pdf

EXAMPLES OF CLASSROOM LOCKDOWN PROCEDURES

Expectations of students:

- Stay away from doors and windows, take cover (getting behind something solid if possible).
- Do NOT use cell phones or any other hand-held device as they can interfere with official communication.
- Remain absolutely quiet. Respond only to the directions of your teacher or identified authority.

Expectations of teachers:

- Turn off lights. Goal is to make the room appear vacant.
- Close curtains/blinds.
- Cover any windows on doors
- Ensure cell phones are off or on vibrate, not to be used unless communicating important information regarding the incident
- Remain absolutely quiet. Respond only to an identified authority for the duration of the lockdown procedure.