



SEQUOIA UNION | ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Mr. Perry D. Jensen

Superintendent/Principal

School Safety Training

Dear Parents,

The very act of training for potential emergency situations is not a pleasant one. Each of us would like to believe that we live in a safe community, and that such matters as we read of in the papers don't happen in our world. However, that is not the truth of the world.

Since my arrival to Sequoia Union Elementary School District, I have been working on our Safe School Program. This was done at the request of the School Board, as well as to ensure that we are meeting State and Federal Requirements. School Shootings are not new. The first school shooting in the United States took place in 1764. However, the Columbine, Sandy Hook, Virginia Tech, and Jonesboro shootings have forever changed America's Concept of School Safety Procedures. At both the State and Federal level much effort has been made to understand and clarify the differences between fact and fiction related to situations that would threaten the safety of our schools. As a result of this work three major products relevant to schools had been published and directed for use by California Superintendent of School, Tom Torlakson.

- Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations (Joint Authorship)
- Incident Command Systems for Schools, IS-100SCa (FEMA)
- The School Shooter (Federal Bureau of Investigation)

At the opening of this school year two new laws were enacted to further expand the requirements of our Emergency Response Plan.

- Teen Suicide Prevention Act (AB2246)
- Eric Paredes Sudden Cardiac Arrest Act (AB1639)

With the incidents in San Bernardino (April 10, 2017), Tehama County (November 14, 2017) and Los Angeles (February 1, 2018) Superintendent Torlakson has moved from a point of strongly recommending to insisting that a definitive Safety Plan be provided by each School District to his Office by March 1, 2018.

The training that we have implemented at the school is directly aligned with the directives from Superintendent Torlakson. We have been conducting Fire, Earthquake, and Lockdown Drills. We will be including Cardiac Emergency Response within the next few weeks. Students and Staff are gaining an understanding of "Situational Awareness." The goal is not to cause fear, but rather to help students and staff develop an understanding of choices, potential outcomes, and develop the ability to make rational decisions in adverse conditions.

We are also conducting Scenario Trainings each month with adults who wish to participate. Parents are more than welcome to attend. This training is strictly voluntary. I also welcome input from each of you. I will be scheduling an After School Meeting to discuss what we are doing at the school with the Safety Training and how parents can help. This will be a time of providing information and answering questions. How we practice will determine how we respond in a real event.



Perry D. Jensen
Superintendent/Principal
Sequoia Union Elementary School