

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

The East Haddam School District, in conjunction with state and local law authorities and the district Safety and Security Task Force, has developed and fully implemented a district-wide Safety Response Plan. This plan is designed to maintain high levels of safety and security in our schools in the event of a crisis or emergency situation. In addition, the district has also developed and implemented programs to address school safety related to:

- A Safe and Healthy School Climate;
- Emergency Preparedness;
- Crisis Response; and
- Information and Resources.

ALERTNOW Instant Messaging System

The East Haddam School District has fully implemented a computer-based instant messaging system known as *ALERTNOW*. This system can notify up to 5000 phones and email accounts in less than thirty seconds. *ALERTNOW* is used for weather notifications and for any other school or district-wide emergency notification.

The Superintendent of Schools, in conjunction with state and local authorities, determines the need for a school cancellation, delayed openings, or early dismissal due to inclement weather. *ALERTNOW* is then activated and a message is sent to everyone on the *ALERTNOW* list in East Haddam.

If you are a parent of a child who attends the East Haddam School District and would like to receive *ALERTNOW* notifications by phone and/or email, please contact your child's school office.

Inclement Weather

The East Haddam School District announces its school cancellations, delayed openings, and early dismissals on the following television and radio stations:

Television Stations

WFSB Channel 3
WTNH Channel 8
WVIT Channel 30

Radio Stations

WTIC 96.5 FM/1080 AM
WRCH 100.5 FM
WZMX 93.7 FM
WDRC 102.9FM/1360 AM
WSNG 610 AM
WWCO 1240 AM
WMMW 1470 AM

Inclement Weather (continued)

Delayed Opening Schedule	
Schools	Arrival Time
East Haddam Elementary School AM Kindergarten/Preschool PM Kindergarten/Preschool Grades 1-3	Cancelled 12:35 p.m. 10:50 a.m.
Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Grades 4 & 5 Grades 6-8	10:40 a.m. 9:40 a.m.
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Grades 9-12	9:30 a.m.

Early Dismissal Schedule	
Schools	Dismissal Time
East Haddam Elementary School AM Kindergarten/Preschool PM Kindergarten/Preschool Grades 1-3	10:55 a.m. Cancelled 1:25 p.m.
Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Grades 4 & 5 Grades 6-8	1:10 p.m. 12:10 p.m.
Nathan Hale-Ray High School Grades 9-12	12:00 noon

Included below you will find many of the most frequently asked questions about school safety, informational responses, and a comprehensive resource list. Please contact Dr. Ellen Solek, Superintendent of Schools in East Haddam at 873-5090 with any additional questions you may have.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is our emergency response plan?**
The East Haddam School District has taken numerous steps to ensure a high level of safety and security in our schools. Each school has a crisis management team in place and a detailed emergency response plan. The plan includes steps that our professional staff will take in the event of an emergency. All district staff are regularly trained in these procedures.
2. **What does the emergency response plan cover?**
The plan covers an extensive list of possible crisis or emergency situations that could occur while the schools are in session. Some of these include: weather-related events such as tornadoes, unexpected severe/winter weather, school intruder(s), fire, explosion, chemical, or other extreme events.
3. **How will my child's school handle an emergency situation?**
All schools have an emergency response plan in place. Each school has a crisis management team, develops evacuation and lockdown procedures, maintains a portable critical response kit that contains key information and supplies, designates one or more appropriate evacuation sites, provides training to personnel and updating of the plan, maintains checklists for dealing with specific types of incidents and provides resources for help before, during and after an event. All school response plans have been reviewed by local and state police and school crisis management teams have received regular training.
4. **How can I stay informed?**
The East Haddam School District broadcasts emergency messages, when necessary, using a number of media including the *ALERTNOW* messaging system (instant phone and email alerts) and local TV and Radio stations. Parents are encouraged to use these media sources regularly for updates on emergency situations.
5. **Can I see the security plan for my child's school?**
The East Haddam School District does not release this type of specific information, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act. This law provides specific exclusions to the type of information that can be released and protects our students and staff.

Frequently Asked Questions (continued)

6. **What can I expect when picking up my child during an emergency?**
The primary responsibility of the East Haddam School District, in the event of an emergency, is to maintain a high level of safety and security for all students at all times. *During an in-school emergency, students would be released to parents only when the Superintendent of Schools determines that it is safe to do so.* Should a delayed release occur, parents would receive regular informational updates from the Superintendent via *ALERTNOW*, TV, and radio broadcasts.

7. **Are schools stockpiling food and water?**
The school district is taking action to make sure that schools and offices have the appropriate resources available for a short-term event. In the event of a large-scale catastrophic event, the East Haddam School District would rely on federal and state authorities for assistance.

8. **What if my child is riding a school bus at the time of a crisis?**
The bus company would be in contact with the Superintendent of Schools for instructions in the event that a crisis occurs while students are in transport. Parents would receive regular informational updates from the Superintendent via *ALERTNOW*, TV, and radio broadcasts.

9. **Who can pick up my children?**
Children will not be released to individuals who are not authorized to do so on the student's emergency card or who do not have written parent authorization. The emergency card will be completed by parents and guardians at the start of each school year. Parents and guardians are encouraged to update the emergency card as needed throughout the school year.

10. **What about my child's medication?**
If your child takes medication regularly, you the parent, should make sure that the school nurse has an appropriate amount of additional medication on hand. Parents are encouraged to talk with your child's school nurse for more information.

School Safety and Security Resource List

Name of Resource	Contact Information
Dr. Ellen Solek, Superintendent of Schools	873-5090
East Haddam Elementary School	873-5076
Nathan Hale Ray Middle School	873-5081
Nathan Hale Ray High School	873-5065
East Haddam Police/Fire/Emergency Services	911 873-1226
Troop K	537-7500
Connecticut Sex Offender Registry	www.ct.gov/dps
Youth and Family Services	873-3296
National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
CT School Safety Center	www.preventionworksct.org/ssc/index.html
School Safety Tips from State Police	www.ct.gov/dps

School Safety and Security Resource List (continued)

Name of Resource	Contact Information
CT Commission on Children: Bullying	www.cga.ct.gov/COC/bullying.htm
CT Towns Help Kids Succeed	www.ctkidssuccess.org
CT Safe Routes to School	www.ctsaferoutes.org
National School Safety	http://www.ncpc.org/topics/school-safety
COSTA – CT School Transportation Association	www.ctschoolbus.org
Internet Safety Sites:	Wirdsafety.org Ikeepsafe.org CyberSmart.org Cybercitizenship.org NetLingo
CT Local Radio/TV Stations	WTIC(1080AM), WCNX(1150AM), WHCN(106FM) WDRC(1360AM), WDRC(103FM), WRCH(100.5) WKSS(95.7FM), WVIT (30), WFSB (3)