

The Halton District School Board takes the safety of its staff and students very seriously. That is why school safety procedures have been put in place to respond to threatening situations.

To ensure everyone's safety, the Board, in conjunction with the Halton Regional Police Service, conducts two practice **lockdown** drills along with six fire drills every school year. These drills help remind all parties involved what is required of them during these situations.

A **Lockdown** is a response to an emergency situation where the evacuation of a school building is neither safe nor advisable, and steps are required to isolate students and staff members from danger by having everyone remain inside the building. This procedure is used in a serious emergency situation where the threat is inside or very near to a school.

Hold and secure is a response to an incident in close proximity to a school. Staff and students are considered to be safe inside the school. If safe to do so, school activities may resume inside the building only.

Shelter in Place is a response to an external threat or hazard (i.e. gas leak, toxic fumes from a fire), similar to a **Hold and Secure** situation, staff and students are considered safe inside the school.

During **Hold and Secure** and **Shelter in Place** situations, staff and students participating in activities outside of the building will be directed indoors.

During a school safety situation, student use of cellphones is restricted to keep communication lines free for emergency services.

The safety of staff and students is a priority, which is why these practice drills are necessary and require the cooperation of all involved.

You may contact your school principal if you have further questions.