

Safety and Security

The Driscoll Independent School District has had a comprehensive **Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plan (EOP)** in place for several years and that plan is updated annually. The plan prepares us for action and establishes teams, chains of command, and specific steps to take in an emergency. All of our staff members, including substitutes, are trained and understand their roles in case an emergency situation arises.

Additionally, Driscoll ISD is in constant contact with local law enforcement and receives updates from the Federal Bureau of Investigation. We will take any recommended action deemed appropriate in the face of any specified threats. **There are also ways you can help at home such as listening to local radio/TV for current information and instructions and maintaining a heightened alert to suspicious activity.** More tips are available via the federal and state Homeland Security web sites as well as on the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) site.

School Safety and Security

Statement of Purpose: It is the purpose of the Driscoll ISD School Safety Team to collectively engage staff, students, and community in developing a safe working and learning environment, so that great teaching and authentic relationships can occur. The School Safety Team meets throughout the year with a minimum of three meetings annually. The School Safety Team membership includes a representative from the city's emergency management team, President of the DISD Board of Trustees, the Superintendent, Campus Principal, Assistant Principal, District Counselor, an Early Childhood Teacher, Intermediate Teacher, Middle School Teacher, School Safety Team Chair, District Nurse, an auxiliary staff member, and (minimum of two) parents of current DISD students.

Driscoll ISD Anonymous Tipline

Driscoll ISD uses **STOPit**, an app and web-based system, to allow students, parents, teachers and community to anonymously report cyber-bullying, threats of violence, misconduct or self-harm before they escalate into a crisis or other legal matter.

As young people continue to engage more with technology every day, Driscoll ISD is taking a proactive step to empower students to become Upstanders in our community in the way that they feel most comfortable. DISD believes the adoption of STOPit is an important step in the continued effort to provide a positive school climate and a safe learning environment for students.

Please keep in mind, STOPit is not an emergency response service. If you believe your call requires immediate police, fire, or paramedic response, call 9-1-1. STOPit does not provide counseling or clinical advice. If you feel you need this type of attention, please seek the assistance of a qualified clinical or medical professional.

What is STOPit?

<https://youtu.be/hpg-bli0xas>

How to Report your Concern

There are two ways to access STOPit to make an anonymous report. Users can submit anonymous reports containing text, photos, or video.

- **App-Based Reporting**

Report using STOPit App on the district issued device. You can also download the app from App Store or Google Play on your personal device. Click on the app and enter the access code **Driscoll**.

- **Web-Based Reporting**

Report using the web-based app. Enter the access code **Driscoll** and select the campus from the dropdown menu.

Frequently Asked Questions

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The school has no ability to identify the submitter of a report or message. At their discretion, an end user may choose to voluntarily provide identifying information in the content of their report or message.

Once the STOPit mobile app is downloaded to the student's phone, it provides them with several powerful features. The Report feature can be used to anonymously submit an incident report consisting of an image, video, and/or text to school contacts who can respond to the incident and get help to the student in need. The STOPit mobile app also allows for anonymous two-way communication between students and school administrators with STOPit Messenger.

After a report is made in STOPit, the following steps are taken:

1. A campus administrator or the counselor will contact the parents of students involved to inform them of this report and begin the investigative process. During this process, the administrator/counselor will interview all students involved in the incident.
2. When necessary, interim steps will be taken to ensure safety of the targeted student while the investigation is taking place.
3. The student who was targeted is encouraged to report any retaliation or continued mistreatment now or in the future to the administration/counselor, his/her parents, and/or the police (when necessary) immediately.
4. After the investigation is complete and a plan of action has been determined, the administrator/counselor will contact the students and parents involved in the report to address the findings.
5. Appropriate consequences will be given to the student committing the bullying behavior. (Note: the assistant principal is not allowed to share consequences with the parents of the targeted student.)
6. The targeted student will be offered strategies on dealing with bullying.
7. In order to provide extra support, the assistant principal will inform the counselor of the incident.
8. Staff members (specials teachers, bus drivers, etc.) will be involved on a need to know basis.

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None! STOPit does not require any end user information whatsoever. Information provided by STOPit app users is also kept private and secure. Please read our Privacy Policy. To learn more about the commitment to keeping data provided by students safe, learn more about the Student Privacy Pledge, to which STOPit is a signatory.

DISD only discloses your child's information to third parties which are required as part of the services that STOPit provides, and as described in our Children's Privacy Policy. To learn more about our commitment to keeping data provided by students safe, learn more about the Student Privacy Pledge, to which STOPit is a signatory. As a parent, you have the right to review the personal information that we collect from your child who is under the age of 13. You may also request that DISD delete this information and refuse to allow any further collection or use of your child's information. If you would like to exercise any of these rights or have any questions regarding your child's use of STOPit, DISD urges you to first contact officials at your child's school, which has provided them with access to STOPit. You may also contact DISD, using the contact information below. DISD may ask you to provide additional details, including verification of your parental status, to protect your child's privacy. Please read our Children's Privacy Policy.

Reports and Messenger messages will be received by the contacts designated by the school and district administrators.

Yes, parents, teachers and community members can make an anonymous report via the STOPit app or through the desktop reporting link.

1. To report through an app, download the app from App Store or Google Play and use the school code listed above under App-Based Reporting.
2. To report through the desktop, select the school listed above under Web-Based Report.

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Tragedy Resources

Tips for Talking to Children About Violence

"Helping Children Cope with Tragedy" Report to Parents

"Coping With Loss" Principal Magazine article

"A Death in the Family" Principal magazine article

Bulletin: Resources for Schools to Prepare for and Recover from Crisis

National Association of School Psychologists

Crisis Management Institute

Child and Family Protective Services

- The Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) has a central place to report:
 - Child abuse and neglect.
 - Abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of the elderly or adults with disabilities living at home.
 - Abuse of children in child-care facilities or treatment centers.
 - Abuse of adults and children who live in state facilities or are being helped by programs for people with mental illness or intellectual disabilities. These are run by the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) or Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS).

Texas law says anyone who thinks a child, or person 65 years or older, or an adult with disabilities is being abused, neglected, or exploited must report it to DFPS.

A person who reports abuse in good faith is immune from civil or criminal liability. DFPS keeps the name of the person making the report confidential. Anyone who does not report suspected abuse can be held liable for a misdemeanor or felony.

Time frames for investigating reports are based on the severity of the allegations. Reporting suspected abuse makes it possible for a family to get help.

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Report Abuse

- **By Phone: 1-800-252-5400**
- **Online: Texas Abuse Hotline**

Call DFPS Abuse Hotline toll-free 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, nationwide, or report with DFPS secure website and get a response within 24 hours.

DFPS cannot accept email reports of suspected abuse or neglect.

School Safety Procedures

- Safety is a top priority for DISD and we will do everything in our power to ensure the safety of our students and staff.
- Driscoll Elementary and Middle School campus has screening/sign-in procedures where visitors are required to present identification and are run through Raptor a system that provides alerts for registered sex offenders.
- A criminal background check is conducted on all DISD volunteers and employees.
- All visitors to the campus must enter through the front entrance. Minor exits/entrances are locked throughout the school day.
- Video surveillance cameras are located throughout the interior and exterior of all DISD facilities.
- DISD utilizes an emergency notification system to communicate with staff and parents through either phone calls or texts, whichever is most appropriate for the situation at hand.
- Driscoll Elementary and Middle School has regular safety drills throughout the school year involving both students and staff. The campus keeps a log of all practice drills.
- The district has an Emergency Operations Plan that is evaluated and updated regularly.
- DISD consults regularly with local law enforcement and first responders about school safety.
- Security audits are conducted throughout the district.