

'No Parking' in Fire Lanes at AISD Campuses and Facilities; Citations Will Be Issued to Ensure Safety

AISD Police, the Emergency Management Bureau, and Austin Fire Department are working together to enhance the ability of emergency responders to reach our campuses and respond to emergency situations.

Vehicles cannot be parked and left unattended in a fire lane at any time. This includes vehicles left idling while a parent runs in to check out a student, to unload equipment from vehicles, or as a location to park non-emergency vehicles.

Parking in fire lanes can prevent the timely arrival of first responders to the

scene of medical emergencies and fires on school campuses.

Please take the time necessary to find parking in designated parking lots or on-street parking locations near the campus.

Campus principals are being asked to assist in educating their campus communities in this effort and to report fire-lane parking violations. AISD Police and City Fire Inspectors will issue citations for illegally parked vehicles beginning on March 23. The fine for parking in a fire lane is \$35, which increases to \$70 if not paid by the scheduled court hearing date.

911 Hang-Ups Compromise Response to Real Emergencies

AISD Communications/ Dispatch Center is experiencing a large number of 911 hang-up calls from AISD facilities. The police department will send an officer to all 911 phone calls to ensure the safety of staff and students.

A number of accidental 911 are made by staff members when trying to access AISD's voice mail system. A response by district officers to these misdialed calls may limit first responder availability to timely react to real emergencies. Please review the following information to help limit misdialed 911 calls and hang-ups:

It is not necessary to dial 9 before calling voice mail, follow the voice mail access procedures as noted here:

Logging in to your Voice Mailbox from your Meridian phone

1. Pick up the handset; you should have dial tone.

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Follow these tips for traffic safety on campus

To effectively and safely control traffic on our campuses during peak traffic times and to maintain emergency access to our campuses we present the following traffic safety tips:



- Pick-up your child from the curbside only; never wave your child over through traffic. Crossing between cars is extremely dangerous and teachers will not allow your child to be picked up that way.
- If your child is eligible to use the school bus, please take advantage of the free service – every bus carries the same number of children as forty (40) private automobiles.
- If you can form carpools with family or friends, please do so. Not only will you find a friend, you'll be reducing the number of cars coming to campus and reducing congestion and frustration.
- Be patient and courteous to staff trying to assist children with loading and unloading. Set a good example for your child to follow.
- Make sure your child knows how to load and unload from your car efficiently.
- Do not park in the pick-up circle – parking your car, even for a moment, slows everybody down. Parked cars can also hinder emergency vehicle response to a campus.
- If you need to meet with a teacher or run inside, please use the on-street or designated parking spaces. Do not park in fire lanes, and remember to use the crosswalks for safety.
- Respect children and pedestrians crossing the internal drives and surrounding streets – safety is our primary concern.
- Teach your child to use good manners and safe walking skills when crossing the drives and street, respect the crossing guards, and obey the rules.

We hope that these tips and with your assistance that students will continue to be safe as they arrive to and depart from our campuses.

Chief's Corner

Chief Pat Fuller

Campus Security vs. Convenience

Safety and Security. The topic is addressed in school districts across the country. In AISD, we have dedicated millions of dollars for equipment and technology to increase the security of every school. Our intrusion alarm systems, fire alarm systems, card access systems, and closed circuit television systems, are state of the art. With this effort, one would think burglaries, unauthorized

individuals on campus, thefts, and other such acts would be a thing of the past, but these events still occur at an unacceptable level.

We often identify at least one breach of security committed a person who falls prey to the primary enemy of security efforts — convenience. The more security measures are put in place, the less convenience exist. Technology can assist in reducing the in-con-



venience to some degree. (For example, a card access system can keep one from having to dig for keys.) But technology can't replace the most important component of any security plan, the individual.

The card access system is a good example of how conflicts arise between security and convenience. The cost of the system limits the number of access-controlled doors that

can be installed at a facility. This restricts the number of entry points, which causes people to walk past nearby doors to reach the authorized entry point. We have found that non-entry doors will sometimes be propped open to allow free access without having to walk to an authorized entry point. The convenience overshadows the danger of allowing an intruder access to the facility — which has occurred!

The bottom line is that no matter how sophisticated the security system, the effort fails without individual compliance. Everyone who utilizes our facilities should follow the security guidelines established because it is everyone's responsibility to provide a safe secure environment for our kids.

911 Call Procedures (Continued from page 1)

2. Press the Message button. If you do not have a Message button, dial the Voice Mail System access number. (4-1799 for 414 numbers) (1-1799 for 841 numbers) Note: if a 9 is dialed before the sequence (9)1-1799, you have dialed 911.
3. Enter your five-digit extension at the prompt, followed by the # sign.
4. Enter your password at the prompt, followed by the # sign.
5. Hang up when finished.

Note: All main building classroom phones are equipped with a message button. This button will allow any caller the ability to access their voice messages. Portable building phones are not equipped with this capability. Be careful, do not dial 9 when utilizing a portable phone to call your voice mail.

When dialing an out of district phone number, press 9, but be careful not to dial a '1-1' immediately afterward as this will immediately reach an emergency operator.

A common 911 hang-up is attributed to the phone operator accidentally pressing 9 in order to dial out of district and 1 twice by accident in an attempt to reach a long distance number. Use caution when dialing internal extensions such as 41192, a misdial (9)1192 will also reach 911 emergency response.

A student accidentally or prank dials 911.

Students should be carefully monitored when using district phones. Prank 911 calls are a serious criminal violation:

Texas Penal Code, Sec. 42.061. Silent or Abusive Calls to 9-1-1 Service. (a) In this section "9-1-1 service" and "public safety answering point"

or "PSAP" have the meanings assigned by Section 772.001, Health and Safety Code.

(b) A person commits an offense if the person makes a telephone call to 9-1-1 when there is not an emergency and knowingly or intentionally:

(1) remains silent; or

(2) makes abusive or harassing statements to a PSAP employee.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly permits a telephone under the person's control to be used by another person in a manner described in Subsection (b).

(d) An offense under this section is a Class B misdemeanor.

What should I do if I have accidentally dialed 911 from a district phone?

1. Do Not Hang Up.
2. Explain to the 911 call taker that you are an AISD employee, give the operator your name, school, and specific location. The 911 call taker will contact AISD Police.
3. The Dispatch will contact the number from which 911 was dialed and confirm your contact information. An officer will be dispatched to your location to ensure safety.
4. Contact your administration to ensure that they are aware of the situation. At secondary campuses, a school resource officer will be sent to your location. Elementary school campuses will receive a visit from AISD patrol officers or other law enforcement officers as available.

Remember, a law enforcement officer will visit you to ensure your safety. To avoid such a visit, be careful utilizing your phone. Administrators will receive a regular report outlining 911 calls made from their campus.