



## SafetyFirst



### *What's the Plan?*

- Your school principal is required to submit a safety plan to the district each year which describes what would happen in the event of an emergency.
- If your child requires special considerations in the event of an emergency, you need to ask, "What's the Plan?"
- Think about all scenarios; fire, weather events like tornadoes, and campus intruders.
- This conversation should be held annually, especially during transitions to new school buildings.
- Two good times to discuss this is either at your IEP meeting or during the first 10 days of school before the required emergency drill occurs.

### *Things to Ask*

Depending on your child's needs, here are a few suggestions on what to ask:

- First, ask the person responsible for school's plan to share with you the specific plans for your child.
- Have them show you where your child would be in different emergency scenarios and look for potential issues, i.e., alarm located where child would await evacuation.
- Think about how your child would behave in different emergency situations and what strategies the school could use with them.
- Would your child require ear protection if subjected to alarm for extended period of time? (if your student in a wheelchair would be moved to stairway to wait for fire department to arrive, the student and any helpers would most likely need ear protection to avoid hearing damage; damage begins about 85 dB and the alarm is likely to be set at 75 dB or louder and amplified in a stairway)
- How would emergency personnel know where my child is located if assistance is needed to evacuate?
- Will my child be removed from their wheelchair and in what case will that happen?
- If there is an intruder, what steps will the school take to keep him/her quiet?
- Is there enough staff to handle all the children in the classroom?
- Is it appropriate for my child to take part in drills?
- If my child receives special transportation services, how would my child be removed from a vehicle in case of emergency? If my child is strapped down with a wheelchair, how would my child be removed safely?