



Information for Parents/Guardians

The Pierre School District has signed on with SchoolMessenger, a California-based company that provides notification services for emergency broadcasts, parental outreach and student attendance communications for K-12 Education.

The Pierre School District, which serves 5 schools and more than 2,600 students, will use its new communications capabilities to reach families quickly in the event of an emergency, to report absenteeism, and to improve the overall quality and frequency of communications between its schools and the community.

By partnering with SchoolMessenger, a leading U.S. parental notification company, the district or any individual school can communicate regularly with parents day or night, in any language, using voice messages, email or text messaging. The solution even includes a survey feature that allows officials to query families to get the pulse of the community on key issues.

The system is programmed to call the primary phone number of parents for a variety of reasons that impact the safety and academic performance of your students. SchoolMessenger will be used to complement our emergency preparedness procedures and to inform parents of upcoming school events such as statewide testing and parent meetings.

After evaluating several notification solutions we selected SchoolMessenger because it offers a real value to the district and is proven to measurably impact student safety, parental involvement, staff communications, and student attendance.

This system will not replace current modes of school communication. Principals are still accessible for live visits and we will still send home paper-based memoranda. Acquisition of the SchoolMessenger system is intended to reinforce the district's commitment to remain personally connected to parents.

As students bring Emergency Contact forms home in the Fall, parents are encouraged to review them carefully to be sure all telephone and email information is up to date and accurate. Two emergency contacts from each family are entered into the notification database, which is automatically, regularly updated throughout the year so that it is always emergency-ready. If at any time contact information changes, parents are advised to notify the school immediately so that records can be updated.

Thank you!