



5 Ways Your County Office of Education Can Support School District ShakeOut Participation in the Great California ShakeOut Drill

Your leadership will make a difference!

1. Remind all school districts to participate in the Great California ShakeOut drill.

Effective emergency response only comes through practice. The schools and districts in your county will experience earthquakes in the future and they should be prepared. ShakeOut is an annual opportunity to practice earthquake safety procedures with your students and staff, your community, and millions of people worldwide. Please ask your schools and districts to register their participation for the ShakeOut this October at www.ShakeOut.org/california.

- www.shakeout.org/california/schools includes links to a range of ShakeOut school resources, and additional information.
- www.shakeout.org/california/allschools lists currently registered districts and schools.
- www.shakeout.org/california/COEdata lists how many of your districts are registered (please let us know if the total of number of districts in your county is incorrect)

2. Offer support for their planning and preparation.

Drill manuals, templates, take home materials, and other resources are available at www.shakeout.org/california/schools/drillplans, to supplement resources that your Office may provide. Assist schools and districts by making them aware of the best practices and standards in your county. Teachers may find the educational resources available at www.shakeout.org/california/schools/resources useful for providing context to the drill.

3. Make sure that school districts understand how they will support their schools.

The ShakeOut drill is not only about students doing “Drop, Cover and Hold On.” It is also about how those same students will be supported and protected when the earth stops shaking. Ask districts to review each school’s Safe School Plan to ensure it covers the needs of all the students. Ask each district office about its plan to support their schools during an emergency.

4. Use the drill to review emergency response communication procedures.

Do you have the current emergency contact information for all your districts and schools? Do they know how to contact you? Do you have a communications path that will work when the phones and electricity are down? Use the drill to practice that procedure. Will you be in the county EOC and can you get messages in and out to the school districts and schools? Texting may be an option when phone calls are not; do you have cell-phone numbers for key contacts at each district or school?

5. Review your plan to support schools during an emergency.

After a disaster has struck a community, requests for assistance and the responding resources will flow to local schools and districts through the county offices. Use the ShakeOut drill to prepare your County Office of Education to be ready.