



August 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to a new school year! On behalf of the Volunteers of America Los Angeles (VOALA) Children's Services Safety Department, we are excited to welcome you and your child to a new school year. We look forward to a safe, successful, and enjoyable year of learning and growth.

At VOALA, the safety and well-being of our children, families, staff, and community remain our highest priority. Creating a safe school environment is a shared responsibility, and we appreciate your partnership in helping us maintain safe and welcoming schools for everyone.

Our agency works closely with teachers, administrators, maintenance staff, and our Safety Committee to continuously strengthen school safety. Throughout the year, our staff receive ongoing training in:

- CPR and First Aid
- Fire Safety
- Child Safety and Injury Prevention
- Stop the Bleed®
- Emergency threat response
- Emergency Preparedness
- Disaster and Evacuation Procedures

Children also participate in age-appropriate safety lessons throughout the year led by our classrooms and our safety mascot, Toby and Tabitha our Safety Tigers, who help make learning about safety fun and engaging.



Please Help Us Start the School Year Safely

As we prepare for another great year, we ask every family to help by looking at the provided safety checklist and doing the following the first week of school:

- Ensure your child's emergency contact information is current and includes individuals who can quickly respond in an emergency.
- Submit all required health forms, including updated physicals, dental examinations, current immunization records, and any other required enrollment documents.
- If your child requires medication while at school, provide current physician authorization forms and bring medications in their original labeled containers.
- Practice safe arrival and dismissal procedures by following pedestrian safety rules, using designated crosswalks, obeying school traffic directions, and ensuring children ride in the appropriate car seat or booster seat.



- Arrive at school on time each day. A well-rested child who arrives on time is better prepared to learn.
- Keep children home when they are ill and notify your school if your child has symptoms of a contagious illness.
- Become familiar with your school's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), evacuation procedures, reunification process, and emergency notification methods.
- Talk with your child about school safety, trusted adults, and what to do if they ever feel unsafe.
- If you see something concerning at or around school, report it immediately to school staff. Working together helps keep everyone safe.

Lastly, Emergency Preparedness is key to making our homes and school safe. Emergencies can happen at any time. We encourage every family to develop a home emergency plan, maintain an emergency supply kit, and discuss evacuation and communication plans with your children. Practicing these conversations at home helps children feel more confident during emergencies.

Thank you for being an important part of our school community. Your involvement helps us create a safe, healthy, and positive learning environment where every child can succeed.

If you have any questions about school safety or emergency preparedness, please contact the VOALA Safety Department at (818) 980-2287 or email safety@voala.org.

We wish you and your family a wonderful, safe, and successful school year!

Sincerely,

VOALA Safety Department
Safety Committee
Volunteers of America Los Angeles