

February 2014

Dear Portsmouth School Department Parents/Guardians:

The Portsmouth School Department has adopted the **BLACKBOARD CONNECT** (formerly ALERTNOW) Rapid Notification Service to enhance parental communication. This service allows us to send a voice and/or email message to ALL of our student's parents on their primary contact number within minutes if an emergency occurs at a school. The BLACKBOARD CONNECT service will also assist the school in reducing the resources needed to pass along key information regarding school events or reminders.

The district is utilizing BLACKBOARD CONNECT for:

- Emergency Notification
- Inclement weather cancellations or delays, early dismissals due to inclement weather
- Rumor Control
- Early-release Reminders

Your child's school is utilizing BLACKBOARD CONNECT for:

- Report card and progress report reminders
- Transportation messages, such as late bus routes or field trips
- Grade level information, i.e. field trip reminders

The ability to deliver a message is only as successful as the contact information we have for our families, so please make certain we have the most up-to-date direct dial numbers and email addresses. If this information changes, please notify the main office staff at your child's school immediately.

Important:

1. Your caller ID will display your school's or the district's main number anytime a non-emergency or emergency call is generated. Examples of an emergency include evacuation or lockdown.
2. BLACKBOARD CONNECT will leave a message on your voicemail or answering machine.
3. If you have such things as Telemarketer Zapper or Privacy Director on your telephone lines, you may not receive the call.
4. Confirm that your email spam filter is set to accept messages from blackboard.com. Check your junk mail box to confirm this.
5. Confirm that your phone number and email address is up to date with the school's office staff before contacting Blackboard Connect Support @ 800-914-1817.