



# Upper Arlington City Schools

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## ***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***

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## **District to implement alert notification service**

Within the next few days, the Upper Arlington City School District will launch a new alert-notification service for parents, students, staff, and the community.

At its May 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Board of Education approved a contract with The NTI Group, Inc., to utilize the company's Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> which will allow district and school officials to deliver any-time messages to contact district constituents almost immediately. Built exclusively for K-12 educators, the service enables the administrators and designated individuals to record, schedule, send, and track thousands of voice messages in a matter of minutes. These messages include important safety bulletins concerning our schools, information concerning upcoming events or activities in our schools, notifications about student attendance, and school closings.

"Effective communication with parents has a direct impact on the academic success of a student. There is too much information that does not make it from the school into the child's backpack and home to the parents," said Dr. Jeff Weaver, Superintendent. "With the Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> service, we now have the right tool to help us close the backpack gap and help parents stay engaged."

Users of the Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> service can send a message to up to six phone numbers (home, cell, and office) and two e-mails for each student and staff member. To ensure that a school knows how many and which numbers were reached, results of outgoing messages are reported to school principals and administrators immediately upon availability.

Now may be a good time for parents to contact their child's respective school office if their contact information has changed recently or if they wish to add additional contact information.

Families' information is safe and their privacy is protected. Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> maintains all contact information in a secure data storage facility solely for the use of the Upper Arlington City Local Schools to contact parents with important news and information. Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> will not provide your contact information to any other agency or individual for any purpose.

Visit the Connect-ED<sup>®</sup> web site at <http://www.ntigroup.com/> for more information concerning the operation of the system.