

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We are committed to providing the safest possible environment for our students. Over the years, we have taken great steps in securing our schools (locking exterior doors, installing monitored entry systems, and installing security cameras). But, what if an armed intruder enters or is already in the building? Schools across the country have answered that question with a method we call Lockdown. In the event an unauthorized person enters the school buildings or grounds, a Lockdown alert is given, and students and staff are instructed to lock their classroom doors, turn out lights, hide in a far corner of the classroom, and remain calm and quiet. This is the procedure that we have followed for years, but we now know that we must provide students and staff with more options.

Our district has enhanced the Lockdown procedures that we, as well as experts across the country, believe will increase the chance of survival during an active shooter incident. The enhancements we will teach our staff and students are known as ALICE. What does ALICE mean?

Alert: We will get the word out using clear concise language and describe the location of the event.

Lockdown: This is still a good starting point. The Lockdown will include locking the door but also barricading to deny entry.

Inform: Continual communication keeping the staff and students informed allows for good decision making.

Counter: Apply skills of movement, noise, distance, distractions and using our overwhelming numbers to gain control of the situation, as is age and ability appropriate. This is only if Evacuation and Lockdown is not possible.

Evacuate: Reduce the number of potential targets for the shooter, and reduce chances of injuries resulting from friendly fire when help arrives.

In NO WAY are we asking or teaching our students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them with options that, if faced with a life or death situation, can be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival. These options including evacuating, barricading the door, and protecting oneself by any means necessary should an armed intruder enter the room.

Training will emphasize that the best way to survive an active shooter is to evacuate, when possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to please contact one of us if you have any questions about the ALICE program or if you prefer that your student not participate. We look forward to working with your students to provide them with skills they might need at school and in the community if confronted with a violent intruder.