



ALICE Training in the Ann Arbor Public Schools

Points to Remember for Classroom Teachers

The ALICE protocol trains AAPS staff to consider alternative ways to respond to an armed intruder incident in a school setting.

AAPS staff are looking at their classrooms and schools differently. They are walking through different armed intruder scenarios and implementing the ALICE protocol, coming up with a variety of alternatives and all viable options to the former lock down in place response. The lock down in place option is now joined by a variety of other responses including safely fleeing the school, hiding in another location and most importantly making these quick decisions based on a protocol that instructs you to listen and respond to an emergency situation.

***Remember* – we are not asking staff or students to subdue or approach an intruder – ALICE provides other ways to respond to an armed intruder that have proven to save lives.**

Proper Student Discussion Points – by level

During the first Lock Down drill of the year AAPS staff are instructed to have a classroom discussion with students that covers alternative responses to the traditional lock down in place response. Below are a list of topics and expected responses based on the student age. Also included is a list of appropriate discussion points to cover during the first Lock Down drill of the year.

Remember: the teacher is to engage in a discussion of alternative responses such as fleeing the school, hiding in another location or locking down in place, in a calm reassuring manner that speaks to the leadership and control the staff member has over the students during an emergency situation.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

During the Lock Down Drill discuss with students how they feel during the lock down. Responses such as sitting duck, trapped, helpless, scared, nervous, will likely come to mind in our students.

Explain what ALICE means and how all AAPS staff have been or are being trained in this new response protocol for their safety. Tell them ALICE means that under the teacher's guidance the staff are empowered to

1. listen closely for signs of where the incident is and what type of incident is occurring
2. get students to a secure area or evacuate
3. apply skills to distract, confuse or gain control
4. and evacuate.

Define ALICE

A = Alert – get the word out. Use real language to alert about the event and location

L = Lockdown – lock the doors and be in a secure area

I = Inform – keep staff and student informed of intruder location allowing for good decision-making responses

C = Counter – remind students we are NOT asking them to do this. This is an adult response and includes distraction, confusing the intruder and gaining control of a situation.

E = Evacuate - leave the building if it is safe to flee

Evaluate the classroom environment

- Where is the safest area to be in this classroom (against the wall in line with the door, a closet, a classroom bathroom...

- Where is this classroom in relation to the nearest exit?
- Are there windows or an outside door we can use to escape?
- Make a classroom plan:
 - Call 911 (any and all of them)
 - Turn off the lights
 - Make sure the doors are locked and closed
 - Build a barricade if directed by the teacher
 - Discuss what can be used to barricade the door
 - Tables, chairs, strapping door handles

Debrief

Ask students how they feel after the discussion. They will be scared, empowered, and possibly unsure about how they would respond. All of these feelings plus many more are normal. Tell them this.

Share that this is unsettling information and it is uncomfortable to discuss but assure them that you, the teacher, will be there to lead and to be in control of their safety. You are in charge of keeping them safe.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

We will not teach them the ALICE protocol but we will practice different types of responses during our emergency lock down drill.

Explain to students that we are learning a different way to practice the lock down drills. Tell them that we have some new ways that we can practice instead of just sitting in one spot during the drill.

1. Review where the lock down safe area is in the classroom.

- 2. Ask students to think about other ways they could quickly get out of the classroom**
 - a. Windows, outside door**
- 3. Ask students if there are other areas to hide in the classroom**
 - a. Inside bathroom, closet, standing at the side of the main classroom door, cupboards**
- 4. Ask students if they know where the closest exit door is and when you get outside where can you go**
 - a. Woods, neighborhood...**

Tell the students these are all correct answers and that they will be practicing all of these over the school year.

Tell them it is important for them to listen to you, their teacher, during the drills so that they will receive instruction as to how they are to respond for that drill. Remind them that the teacher is the leader during any emergency and teachers are there to keep them safe and secure.

Debrief

Ask students if they understand that teachers may now tell them to do something different during the lock down drills and that they must follow the teachers instruction.

Assure them this is just a different way to practice a drill and that the teacher will let them know what they will practice during the drill.