



**Parent FAQ's about
ALICE school safety drills**

Q: What is ALICE and ALICE training?

A: As part of updating the district's safety plan, a new safety protocol called ALICE will be implemented in the unlikely event of an armed intruder in one of our school buildings. This training encourages staff and students to respond based on their situation, rather than rely on centralized instructions in dynamic times of crisis.

ALICE is a federally endorsed safety protocol. **The letters ALICE stand for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate:**

- **Alert**—inform people of the threat giving as much information as possible.
- **Lockdown**—Students and staff can choose to lockdown and barricade the room that they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evacuate.
- **Inform**—Pass on as much information as possible to others and to First Responders, including calling 911.
- **Counter**—An effort of last resort, if an armed intruder is able to get into the space they are in, individuals can counter with distraction or other tactics.
- **Evacuate**—If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building, and remove themselves from the threat.

During ALICE training, staff and students are trained in different options for responding to a school intruder who is intent on doing harm. In certain circumstances, the “lock the door and hide” strategy might be appropriate. In some cases, the teacher and students might take precautions to barricade the entrance(s) of the classroom. Under certain conditions, it might be the best decision for the teacher and students to flee the building. The goal of ALICE training is that the strategies learned will increase the chances that our staff and students might survive if a terrible circumstance of an armed intruder ever were to occur.

All Central Bucks administrators and teachers have completed both an online training module and live scenario training on the new ALICE protocol. All remaining professional and support personnel will be trained by December 2017. Our principals and teachers will begin to introduce the ALICE strategies to students during drills and practices that will be conducted during this school year.

Q: Why change to these different protocols?

A: All Central Bucks schools are safe places for our students to be. Just like practicing what we should do in a fire with our monthly fire drills, we want to be sure that we will know what to do if an armed intruder is in a school. All our schools are equipped with a number of safeguards, some seen and others

unseen, to keep our students safe. In addition, since we know that violence has become all too frequent in our world, the strategies and mental preparation we use in ALICE preparation are transferable to any public venue our students may find themselves in where a crisis may occur.

Q: What does it mean to “counter?”

A: The main intent of **Counter** is to distract the intruder, not try to physically take on the intruder. An example of counter would be to throw objects at an intruder for a distraction. Being passive or static has typically not shown to be an effective response in most Active Shooter events. There are examples within recent events of school violence where the difference of passive and active responses determined survival chances.

Q: Students’ readiness for this information varies based on age. How will this be communicated to students in age-appropriate ways?

A: We want our children to be prepared for everything, including if an unsafe person was to enter our school. Administrators, student services staff, and teachers will take the principles and tactics taught in the ALICE training and present the information in non-fearful, empowering ways. We will take into account children’s developmental readiness to ensure that students feel safe and have opportunities to talk about their feelings and reactions.

Q: How will parents be notified if their child’s school is experiencing a crisis?

A: Parent notification will be just like any other school closing. All emergency information would be sent as text, e-mail, website notification, and posted on Facebook and Twitter. It is vital that all contact information is accurate and complete on the Parent Portal. The district also has the capability to make a phone call to home and cell phone numbers that are listed in the Parent Portal.

Q: How would we pick up our children after an emergency?

A: In the event of a full evacuation, children would be transported to safe evacuation sites off school grounds where they will be reunited with parents. Parents will be informed about these locations through direct communication.

Q: Where can I go for more information about ALICE?

A: Here is a link to information about ALICE: <http://www.alicetraining.com/>. Contact your school principal with any specific questions.