



Monona Grove School District

"Promoting Excellence for Global Opportunities"

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Providing a safe, secure learning environment for your child(ren) is one of our highest priorities. As part of the process of updating the district's safety plan, the Monona Grove School District adopted active threat procedures known as A.L.I.C.E. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use information, technology, and actions in a way so staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, removing as many people as possible from potential danger zones, and providing realistic training to improve the chance of survival. The A.L.I.C.E. approach has been identified, reviewed, and supported by a team of individuals who represent our district, law enforcement agencies, and emergency responders. A.L.I.C.E. has been endorsed by the Department of Education, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Dane County Sheriff's Department, the Cottage Grove Police Department, and the Monona Police Department. It is considered "best practice" to respond to an active threat.

A.L.I.C.E. encourages individuals to make the best decisions based on their location and the proximity to the active threat. The components of the procedures include:

- A - Alert
- L - Lockdown and Barricade
- I - Inform
- C - Counter
- E - Evacuate and Escape

NOTE: *In NO WAY are students or staff being taught or asked to make any attempt to subdue an intruder.*

School district staff, administrators, and school resource officers participated in training. Now that A.L.I.C.E. is a part of our district safety and security procedures, staff will participate in ongoing training annually and will work with our trainers to provide students with training. Beginning at the end of April, students will be introduced to A.L.I.C.E. procedures. Opportunities for students to practice these procedures will begin in the 2018-2019 school year.

These steps do not happen in a linear order, but in the order that best corresponds to the situation. In many cases, students and staff will evacuate the area of danger, moving to a safe location, away from the danger. In other cases, students and staff will lockdown and barricade the space they are in while they continue to identify safe evacuation routes. All actions are taken to keep everyone well informed and to deter anyone from harming others.

Reminders of safe practices help us to make good decisions about personal safety. Parents/guardians can help prepare their children for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by reinforcing the following concepts at home:

- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are difficult and get easier as we practice them.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When we are prepared for difficult situations, we make informed decisions and have more control.
- Our children are smart and capable, when they have the knowledge about how to prepare and respond.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills they practice at school and when they use them.
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions at all times.

Information regarding the A.L.I.C.E. plan can be found at <http://www.alicetraining.com/>. Please contact your child's principal if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for supporting the safety of all of our children, staff, and visitors.

Respectfully,

Daniel Olson, Ed.D.

Superintendent