

MANCHESTER LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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"Home of the Greyhounds"

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January 11th, 2018

RE: ALICE Safety Training

Dear Parents or Guardians:

Manchester Local School District has adopted a new strategy for lockdown procedures known as the A.L.I.C.E. plan. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. Prior to A.L.I.C.E., lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they are not visible, and quietly remaining there until law enforcement gave an "all clear" announcement.

The A.L.I.C.E. plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of A.L.I.C.E. is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving.

Manchester Local School District will implement A.L.I.C.E. as soon as student training is completed. A panel of Manchester Local School District principals, teachers, guidance counselors, parents, and the district's School Resource Officer provided input into how Manchester Local Schools plan to communicate these concepts to the students. Teachers will provide direction on what actions students will take, so it is very important that students listen and follow the directions. Before Manchester Local Schools performs the first drill, the individual classroom teachers will use a common set of guidelines to address this topic and reinforce to their class the A.L.I.C.E. plan.

The first drill performed will include an ALERT in the form of an announcement from the principal notifying everyone in the building of the location of the "danger zone." Those areas of the building within the "danger zone" will practice LOCKDOWN and discuss alternate exits from the classroom, such as a window; however, the students will not physically exit their classroom during the first drill. The principal will continue to INFORM the building of any changes in the "danger zone." The student training sessions cover the COUNTER portion of the plan. Those classrooms not in the "danger zone" will practice the EVACUATE portion of the plan if hallways and exits are safe. Teachers will not know the location of the "danger zone" prior to the drill so that they can practice developing a strategy that provides the safest outcome for their students. Therefore, is it **very important for the students to listen to the directions given by their teacher**, as the course of action during these drills may be different.

Younger students need constant reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by helping them understand the following objectives at home:

- There are people, of all ages, color, and types that can be mean and may wish them harm.
- Self-confidence comes from trying difficult things and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child feels prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self-control.
- Your child is smart and capable, if they have the knowledge.
- Help your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean.
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuation. (This is different for each classroom.)
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions without hesitation.

Manchester Local Schools plan to provide details surrounding the next phase and additional drills during the school year. Information regarding A.L.I.C.E. can be found on the district website at www.mlsd.us. Please contact your child's principal or me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Brian Rau
Superintendent