

Dear Ann Arbor Public School Parents and Guardians:

In the Ann Arbor Public Schools, student safety is our top priority. Tragically, over the past several years this country has seen a dramatic increase in school violence and school shootings. As the experts analyze these horrific events, school districts and local law enforcement work closely together to develop, train and practice current response protocols. These protocols are crucial to survival if an active shooter should ever enter our schools.

Since 2013 school districts across Washtenaw County, in partnership with Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office, the Ann Arbor Police Department and other local law enforcement agencies, have taken a proactive stand. Local law enforcement officials and AAPS school personnel have been trained in an active shooter response protocol that is based on the most current research on how to increase the rate of survival during an active shooter incident.

AAPS will hold a parent meeting with the Ann Arbor Police Department to explain the ALICE protocol as well as discuss recent school safety initiatives.

**Tuesday, April 16, 2019**  
**6:30-8:00pm**  
**Pioneer High School Annex**

ALICE stands for:

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| <b>A</b> lert    | Get the word out! "Armed intruder in building" instead of "Code Red"<br>Use clear, concise language to convey the type and location of the event.              |
| <b>L</b> ockdown | Lock the doors. Continue to lockdown students in a secure area.  |
| <b>I</b> nform   | Keep staff and students informed of the location of the intruder.<br>Communication keeps the shooter off balance and allows for good decision-making by staff. |
| <b>C</b> ounter  | Apply skills learned in training to distract, confuse, and gain control of the intruder situation.   |
| <b>E</b> vacuate | Reduce the number of potential targets for the shooter, and minimize chances of victims resulting from friendly fire when help arrives.                        |

Using the above method AAPS staff have been trained in what to do if an armed intruder/active shooter enters our schools including:

1. Listen carefully to the location and type of event.
2. Get to and/or remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.

3. Should an armed intruder/active shooter invade their area, apply skills to distract, confuse, and gain control.
4. As soon as it is safe to do so, evacuate.

**We are not training staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area.** However, we do provide the research-based knowledge and skills needed, that if faced with a life or death situation, they can use to greatly enhance the chance of survival for themselves and their students.

**It is important to note that we do not train AAPS students in the ALICE response protocols.** We understand that threats to our students and staff are a very hard subject and we do not want to cause undue stress or invoke fear in our students. This training provides staff with other options and the ability to think about those options now to be better prepared in the very unlikely event an intruder enters one of our schools.

What AAPS students have practiced since 2013 is beyond the traditional lock down response. With staff guidance students run through different responses such as fleeing the school in an organized way or hiding in a different location in the school or classroom. During the school's drills the classroom teacher has a discussion with their students that will be age appropriate on the different options that they have instead of always assuming the lock down protocol of sitting quietly in their rooms.

The State requires each school to hold a lock down drill during a high-congested time such as lunch, recess or class passing time. These allow the schools to test the different response protocols. Teachers assure students these are just practices but our response is critical during these drills. This is also the similar expectation during our fire and inclement weather/tornado drills.

**Again, the Ann Arbor Public Schools will hold a parent information meeting on Tuesday, April 16 at Pioneer in the Annex starting at 6:30pm.** You can enter Pioneer off the "flag pole entrance" nearest to the large parking lot off Main Street and proceed past the auditorium toward the main office. The annex is directly across from the main entrance doors facing Stadium Blvd.

At this meeting we will also discuss the school security assessment conducted at each AAPS school as well as an introduction of the new visitor management system that you will see soon in all AAPS schools.

We will have copies of the grade level discussions and an FAQ that AAPS teachers follow when they speak with their students during the lock down drill.

We know this is a very unsettling topic for all of us yet we also know that it is imperative that our staff be well trained in response protocols that provide a safe learning environment for your students in the event of an emergency.

Sincerely,  
Liz Margolis  
Executive Director, Student & School Safety