

Much has been said about the A.L.I.C.E. protocol that empowers students, staff, visitors and administrators to make decisions that will allow them to survive in the event a violent intruder or any other crisis threatens to cause harm. Those in harm's way shall be allowed to make decisions that are best for them given the circumstances. (A.L.I.C.E. is Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate)

On April 7 & 8, 2014 more than 30 East Allen County Schools (EACS) personnel and 20 police and fire fighters attended an ALICE "train the trainers" class. The purpose of the training was so they could in turn educate ALL people working in EACS about the ALICE Protocol and how to incorporate it into the overall safety plan.

During May and June, 2014 training was provided in each building for staff, teachers and administrators by EACS personnel who received the ALICE training in April. In most buildings a representative from a police or fire agency assisted the EACS person with the training. As the 2014-15 school year progresses, training will be provided for new staff members and ongoing assistance will be available for ALICE trained personnel.

During the 2014-15 school year students will be educated about the ALICE protocol. Future crisis drills will use terminology and procedures consistent with the ALICE Protocol. Crisis drill templates simulating hypothetical crisis situations will be used by teachers to strategize potential responses with students in the classroom. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) requires two crisis drills per school year, however EACS will have four crisis drills a year; one per quarter.

Some people have expressed concerns that younger students may be frightened by crisis drills dealing with a violent intruder. In order to deal with those apprehensions, EACS purchased multiple copies of "I'm Not Scared....I'm Prepared! Because I Know All About ALICE", a book by Julia Cook for students in grades K-3. The book talks about responding to crisis situations in an age appropriate non- frightening manner. After the book is read to students, discussions will be guided by the teacher to help them understand how to respond if a real crisis were to occur.

The next page contains a summary of the ALICE Protocol developed by the ALICE Training Institute of Medina Ohio. If you have additional questions, please call your school or EACS Safety Manager Jeff Studebaker at 446-0175.

The **A.L.I.C.E.** program is designed to give a person, or group of people, who may find themselves in a violent, life threatening situation, some mental and physical tools that could play a vital role in their survival. The program is designed so that anybody can employ the strategies. Young, old, male, female, it does not matter. One does not have to be police, or military trained in order to survive a violent encounter. He or she does need to have a frame of reference from which to draw, when making life saving decisions under extreme pressure, much like preparing for a fire, tornado or earthquake.

A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for:

1. **Alert**, notify authorities and those in harm's way of the danger at hand. It is important to be as clear and accurate with the information as possible. Remember to identify yourself, your location, the suspect information, type of weapon, direction of travel and a call back number. Don't hang up unless your safety is compromised or you are directed to by the dispatcher.
2. **Lockdown**, or shelter in place. By locking down and barricading entry points, you are making yourself a hard target and creating a stronghold that nobody should be able to enter. Only police personnel may enter a locked down room.
3. **Inform**, give real-time updates. This can be accomplished with things such as video surveillance equipment or public address systems. Updates during a violent intruder incident allow you to make sound decisions about how to react and what steps, if any, to take next. They can also act as good distracters for the intruder.
4. **Counter** the attacker as a last resort. There have been instances where victims did not have the ability to lockdown or get out because the violent incident occurred right next to them or they were in an area that was not securable. There is also the possibility of the intruder breaching a secured area. If this is the situation then total commitment to countering the attacker is essential. Many objects can be used as distraction devices, spread out, turn out the lights and be ready to cause confusion for the intruder and make yourself a hard target.
5. **Evacuate**, or get out!! Your goal here is to put as much time and distance as possible between you and the attacker. Don't use the same rally point as with a fire or earthquake drill, you will want to move much further away from this danger zone.

Remember, there are no guarantees in an active shooter/violent intruder situation, but just as in most other emergency situations the more you prepare, the better your chances of survival.