

ALICE SAFETY DRILLS

WILLOUGHBY-EASTLAKE CITY SCHOOLS

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Staff

1 What is ALICE Training?

ALICE is a federally endorsed training protocol. The goal of ALICE is to teach strategies which increase the chance that our students and staff would remain safe if an intruder were to enter our buildings.

2 What does ALICE mean?

ALERT: Inform people of the threat; giving them as much information as possible.

LOCKDOWN: Students and staff can choose to lockdown and barricade the room they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evaluate.

INFORM: Pass as much information as possible to others and first responders, including 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. Staff are being trained to use counter techniques and how to evacuate instead of relying on the traditional lockdown and hide response if needed.

EVACUATE: If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building and remove themselves from the threat.

3 Are teachers supposed to follow ALICE in order?

ALICE is not intended to be a checklist of things to do. It is a list of choices, with accompanying strategies that are options for staff to help themselves, students and others stay safe. ALICE trains people to know they have choices in an emergency situation.

4 Why use these different protocols?

Just as we practice fire drills and tornado drills, we want to ensure that all staff and students know what to do if there is an armed intruder in the school. All of our schools are equipped with a number of safeguards, some seen and others unseen, to keep our students safe. We work with law enforcement on all plans. ALICE is the model recommended by law enforcement agencies.

5 How is this information communicated to students?

We want all students to be prepared in case of emergencies. School staff present the principles of ALICE training to students prior to practicing the lockdown drill. The information is presented in an age-appropriate manner. Students have a chance to ask questions and talk about their feelings and reactions.

6 How will parents be notified if there is an emergency?

The school district has several different notification options which includes mass phone calls, emails and texts through School Messenger, social media posts, and website updates. Families can update their contact information in School Messenger.

7 Should I go directly to my child's school in an emergency?

In the event of an emergency, children may be removed from the school site and taken to a safe place for reunification. Your presence in the emergency location will interfere with the first responders to ensure student and staff safety, and to respond to those in need of care. Please wait for communication from the district.

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How will I know my child will be safe after the emergency?

In the event of an emergency, children would be transported to safe evacuation sites off of school grounds where they will be reunited with parents. Parents will be informed about these locations through direct communication at the time of the event. This is a good reason to ensure that your contact information is updated.

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Do the police departments assist the schools with training?

All local law enforcement agencies in our district have participated in planning our drills and training staff in the ALICE protocols. Following drills, we ask them for their feedback. In a crisis, first responders are called and directed to the scene of the emergency immediately.

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How can parents help their children understand drills?

Parents can help their children by engaging in age appropriate conversations with their children either before and/or following the safety drills. In a lockdown, that means there is a “dangerous person” close by in our school who is not supposed to be there so we practice our lockdown drill so we know how to stay safe in that situation. Here are some talking points to help you with that conversation:

- The most important thing you can do at school to stay safe is to listen to your principal, teacher and other trusted adults at school.
- Even though school is safe, we practice drills in case there is an emergency so we know what to do.
- Sometimes we stay in our classrooms to stay safe.
- Sometimes it is safer if we leave the building.
- Sometimes the adults at school have to ask for help, too. They might call the police officers or the firefighters to come and help. It’s important to listen to them and follow their directions just like you follow directions from the teachers and principal.

If you have particular questions about your child’s building drills, please contact their teacher or the building principal.

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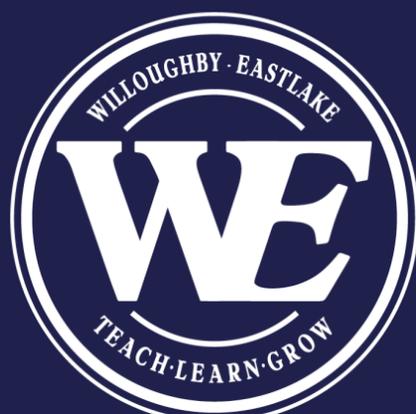
What other safety tips should I consider for my child?

Children need to be empowered with positive messages and safety skills that will not only build their self-esteem and self-confidence, but also help keep them safer. Help them understand that their parents, guardians, or other trusted adults, like those in the schools and first responders, are there to help them. Help them feel comfortable going to a trusted adult if they feel unsafe or uncomfortable. The goal is not to scare children, but make them aware of their surroundings and know how to reach out for help if needed from a trusted adult.

District Operations and Security

The Willoughby-Eastlake City Schools is committed to providing a safe environment in all of our schools. All employees, law enforcement personnel, other first responders, and families work together to provide for the safety and welfare of all staff and students.

Brian Patrick, Director of Human Resources, Safety and Security
Steve Johnson, Coordinator of Operations and Security



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