

A.L.I.C.E. ALL SCHOOL STUDENT SAFETY TRAINING

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s):

Elmira High School is committed to providing the safest possible environment for its students. Two years ago we updated our safety plans. As part of this initiative, a new safety protocol called A.L.I.C.E. was implemented, to train our students and staff on how to respond appropriately, in the unlikely event of an armed intruder in one of our school buildings. This training encourages staff and students to respond based on their situation, rather than rely on centralized instructions in dynamic times of crisis.

In October, as part of our continued professional learning, our staff was trained on how to effectively teach students in their classes the A.L.I.C.E. protocol.

In an effort to keep all students and all staff informed of the A.L.I.C.E. safety protocol, we will hold a yearly ALL SCHOOL training. We have scheduled the all school A.L.I.C.E. drill this year for Wednesday, November 14th.

The A.L.I.C.E. protocol is a federally endorsed safety protocol for schools, and is an acronym that stands for:

- **(A)lert** – inform people of the threat, giving as much information as possible.
- **(L)ockdown** – Students and Staff can choose to lockdown and barricade the room that they are in if they determine that it is not safe to evacuate.
- **(I)nform** – pass on as much information as possible to others and to First Responders, including contacting 911.
- **(C)ounter** – an effort of last resort, if an armed intruder is able to get into the space that they are in; students are being trained to use every effort to stop the intruder instead of being passive victims.
- **(E)vacuate** – If it is safe to do so, all are encouraged to evacuate the building, and remove themselves from the threat.

Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. 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.

We, at Elmira, as well as experts across the country, believe that following the A.L.I.C.E. safety protocol will increase the chance of survival during an active shooter incident. We would like to emphasize that we are not asking or teaching our students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them with options that if faced with a life or death situation, can be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival. These options include escaping, barricading the door, and protecting oneself by any means necessary should an armed intruder enter the room, and training will emphasize that the best way to survive an active shooter is to **escape**. When that is not possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to act will save lives.

Please contact us, if you have any questions about the A.L.I.C.E. safety protocol or trainings, or if you prefer that your student not participate. We look forward to working with your students to provide them with skills they might need at school and in the community if confronted with a violent intruder.

Further information on A.L.I.C.E., can also be accessed at www.alicetraining.com.

Sincerely,

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