

Frequently Asked Questions about ALICE

Please use this as a guide for how you may respond to questions that your child may have about the ALICE training that they have received. If you have further questions, please find contact information at the end of this document.

1. Can I call my parents once I get to safety?

Yes, please call your parents once you get to a safe place. You can also call 911 to let them know where you are.

2. Can we throw things if there is an intruder in our classroom?

Your teacher might choose to throw things from the classroom at the intruder if they enter the classroom. You should be following the directions of your teacher (or adult in the room), which could include being prepared to distract the intruder, being prepared to evacuate the room, or moving furniture around to create a barricade.

3. Can we break a window to get out?

Your teacher might choose to use the window as a way to evacuate if the door is not an option. You should be following the directions of your teacher or adult in the room. They will know how to evacuate through the window, but they may ask you to help. Carefully clear away glass before going out the window, and then RUN to safety.

4. How will I reunite with my family?

The police or law enforcement will identify a place for you to be reunited with your family. The information about where to reunite with your family will be sent out at that time in many ways, including a mass message from school, social media posts, officer's squad cars, and the police department's system. The school will be working together with law enforcement to decide where parents can pick up students, and how to send out this information. Parents, for everyone's safety, please only go to the places designated by law enforcement at that time.

5. Do substitutes know what to do?

Substitutes will need to be trained, but you can help by giving reminders about the closest exit or available materials in the room.

6. Are we allowed to evacuate without a teacher?

If there is no teacher around you, and you can safely evacuate, you can do so. Remember to run to the closest exit and do not return to the building. Keep running until you reach a safe place or are with a safe adult.

7. What if someone has an injury or other reason why they cannot evacuate?

If someone is unable to evacuate, locking the classroom and barricading the door is a great option. If you can help the person to evacuate, you can do that as well.

8. What if there is no PA Announcement of the intruder?

There may not be an announcement, or you may not be able to hear it for some reason. There may be other things that you hear that alert you or your teacher to begin to implement ALICE. Your teacher has been trained in what to listen for.

9. Will we be able to come back and get our stuff from school?

The police will let the school district know when it is safe to return to the building. It may not be until the following day or even a few days. Do not re-enter the school until you have been alerted that it is safe.

10. Does it matter if the intruder hears the announcement?

It does not matter if the intruder hears the announcement. They will still have no idea what everyone will do. The National ALICE Training organization tells us that it is distracting to the intruder to be hearing all of the announcements, and that is a good thing.

11. How do we lock the door?

All doors are locked and have a device in place to prevent it from latching for everyday use. Some have magnets, and some have a metal piece preventing the door from latching all the way. To lock the door, simply remove the magnet or the metal piece and pull/push the door shut. Your teacher may also choose to use classroom items to secure the door closed.

12. Can we run to our house?

Yes, you can run to your house as long as it is in the direction you are evacuating. Remember to always run AWAY from the sound of the threat. Contact your parents and/or the police to let them know where you are.

13. What if there is more than one intruder?

The same ALICE options apply, but rarely is there more than one intruder.

14. What will the office staff do?

The office staff will also implement ALICE. They will use any of their options, which could include lockdown, barricading or evacuating the office.

15. What if the intruder comes during a passing period or at the beginning or end of the day?

If the intruder comes into the school during a time when students are moving around the school, whether at arrival/dismissal or during a passing period, the same ALICE options apply. If you can, run into a classroom and lockdown and barricade. If you can run out a nearby exit, you can do that too.

16. What if the intruder is a student and knows about the ALICE Procedure? Even if the intruder knew that we follow ALICE, they still will not know how everyone will react. The way the protocol is designed, staff (and students) will be making split-second decisions as to which option they feel is the best to implement based on the information provided.

17. If a student falls while running and gets hurt, should we help them or keep running?

Certainly see if you and maybe another student or the staff can quickly help them, then continue to run to a safe location. If the other student was unable to run with you, then once you reach safety, alert a first responder (911) of where the hurt student is so that they can go help the student.

18. What if we end up in the hallway and all the classroom doors are locked?

Evacuation is a very good option. Find the closest exit and run from the building as soon and as quickly as possible. Run until you can no longer see the building. When you reach safety, flag down a first responder, or call 911 or your parents to let them know where you are.

19. Why can't we evacuate with our cars?

In a time of panic, it might seem like a good idea to leave in a car. It is not appropriate to leave in a vehicle as emergency personnel and other supporting agencies will quickly be arriving on the scene.

20. How do police officers know when I am running that I am not the intruder?

Students have been instructed to leave the building with hands in the air so that police know that they are not the intruder.

21. What if I am outside with my class?

Do not go back into the building. Follow your teacher's directions which will likely include running away from the threat until you get to safety.

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