

# Nevis Public School ALICE Safety Procedures

Parents and community. This past summer our school district elected to go with a more proactive approach towards handling an intruder in our building. We have chosen to use the A.L.I.C.E. system for training our staff and students to handle emergencies in our building. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for:

**A: Alert**--Teaching staff and students to be aware of their surroundings and empowering all staff to alert others in plain language in the event of an emergency.

**L: Lockdown**--Our current lockdown procedures may be a good starting point. However, our staff and students will be trained in enhanced barricading techniques to become a harder target if necessary.

**I: Inform**--Provide as much accurate and real time information as possible so that staff can exercise the best available options for the safety of students and staff.

**C: Counter**--an effort of last resort. This is not about teaching kids to fight but rather about providing options during life and death situations if an intruder were to gain access into the building, classroom or workspace.

**E: Evacuate**--This is the first option when available. Students and staff are encouraged to remove themselves from the threat if possible.

Our administration and staff have been training to implement A.L.I.C.E. and we will continue to develop drills to prepare our student body. This past summer staff members were given advanced ALICE training. The teaching staff were provided with an introduction to ALICE and are taking an online ALICE certification. The ALICE training team will continue to provide training opportunities to build confidence and empower them to act in the best interest of safety.

## The Bottom Line for Safety at Nevis Public School

1. The safety of our students and faculty will always be our top priority.
2. The district is continually updating security procedures based upon best practices.
3. Working with the Hubbard County Sheriff's Department, we have recently updated our understanding, training, and planning for a worst-case scenario of an active-shooter in our school.

# **Nevis Public School ALICE Safety Procedures**

## **Nevis Public School ALICE Emergency Response Frequently Asked Question Sheet Alert – Lockdown – Inform – Counter – Evacuate**

What is the purpose of ALICE?

The philosophy of ALICE is to enhance our current emergency procedures by using technology, information along with training to empower staff and students to make quick decisions in a crisis situation. The goal is to remove as many people as possible away from the danger zone to increase their safety and chance for survival in an active intruder situation.

How is this different than what we did before (Hard Lockdown)?

The Hard Lockdown was a passive approach to an active dangerous situation. In the past, with Hard Lockdown, we simply locked the doors and waited. ALICE is a proactive approach to an active dangerous situation. With ALICE, you can make the best decision for yourself based on the information shared with you. In many situations, lockdown may still be the best option; however, we will incorporate a barricade measure which will provide extra time and shelter from a threat to prepare for the next step.

What is expected of staff and students in an ALICE situation?

The expectations of students and staff in the event of an ALICE situation are to take the most appropriate action that leads to the safest conclusion for all involved. All stakeholders will need to quickly process available information, take appropriate action with resolve, and commit fully to those actions whatever they may include until all are Safe.

How likely is it that we will ever need to use ALICE procedures?

It is highly unlikely that we will ever encounter a serious crisis situation at Nevis Public School; however, in the small chance that something dangerous occurs, ALICE procedures can provide options to keep our students and staff safe and increase their survivability during the situation.

Can we use cell phones during an ALICE situation?

Yes.

When and where can ALICE responses be applied?

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Anywhere and anytime, a critical decision needs to be made to increase the safety and security of all.

What is counter and what is expected of me?

“Counter” is an ALICE response that is the last resort and should be used only in the most extreme situations such as when an intruder is near you and cannot be avoided. During a counter event you should be as chaotic as possible by screaming, yelling, and throwing whatever is available to disrupt the intruder’s thought process until evacuation is an option. The counter response is much like “stop, drop, and roll”. We never want to need this response, but, if it is required, we must know how to react to increase the chances of safety and survivability for all.

Where are the rally points for an evacuation?

Rally points are “safer” areas outside the immediate vicinity of the school selected by our teaching staff and adults, that students and staff can go to after they have evacuated.

While we can never address all of the “What if” scenarios that may occur, ALICE provides us the best available options to meet the demands of the potential emergency situation involving an intruder.

As stated by ALICE trainer Jack Richards, “There are no guarantees in life, and we cannot guarantee that no one will be hurt in a planned determined attack, but we do guarantee that by doing something instead of nothing you will increase your odds of survival.”