

# Shelby Public Schools

*Learning Today for a Successful Tomorrow*

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Shelby Public Schools has adopted a new strategy for lockdown procedures known as the A.L.I.C.E. plan. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. This strategy has been adopted by all schools in Mason, Lake and Oceana County. Prior to the A.L.I.C.E. plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving 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.

With the help of law enforcement officials from the Michigan State Police, Mason and Oceana County Sheriff Departments, the Oceana Office of Emergency Management, and the Shelby Police Department, the A.L.I.C.E. strategy has been formally presented to and practiced by our school staff. The plan will be fully implemented throughout Shelby's schools this winter and spring. Teachers will provide direction to the students on what action needs to be taken so it is very important that students listen and follow the directions given, as this drill is not predictable like a fire drill or tornado drill. Before the drill is performed, the individual classroom teachers use a common set of guidelines to address this topic and teach their class the A.L.I.C.E. plan.

During the drill, an ALERT will be made in the form of an announcement from the principal or other staff member notifying everyone in the building of the location of the "danger zone." Those areas of the building within the "danger zone" will practice LOCKDOWN and discuss alternative exits from the classroom, such as a window, but will not physically exit their classroom during the drill. The staff will continue to INFORM the building of any changes in the "danger zone." The COUNTER portion of the plan will be introduced in a subsequent phase later in the school year. Those classrooms not in the "danger zone" will practice the EVACUATE portion of the plan if hallways and exits are safe. Teachers will not know the location of the "danger zone" prior to the drill so that they can practice developing a strategy that provides the safest outcome for their students. Therefore, it is very important for the students to listen to the directions given by their teacher, as the course of action during these drills will not always be the same.

Younger students need constant reminders of safe practices in order for them to make good decisions related to their personal safety. Parents can prepare their child(ren) for the A.L.I.C.E. plan by helping them understand the following objectives at home:

- There are people of all ages, color, and types that can be mean and may wish them harm.
- Self-confidence comes from trying things that are hard and getting better each time.
- There are many solutions and options when faced with a problem.
- When your child is prepared for difficult situations, they can make informed decisions and will have more self control.
- Your child is smart and capable if they have the knowledge.
- Have your child identify and assess possible crisis situations.
- Have your child demonstrate the ability to get away from someone who has their hands on them.
- Have your child explain the different safety drills and what they mean.
- Help your child name where they need to go in case of evacuations. (different for each classroom)
- Discuss the importance of following the teacher's directions without hesitation.

Please contact the building principal at your child's school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

  
Dan Bauer      Fran Schamber      Mark Olmstead      Beth Pranger      Dannielle McGuire      Teresa Mead  
Superintendent      Shelby High School      Shelby Middle School      New Era Elementary      Thomas Read Elementary      Early Childhood Center