



# School Safety Training

Preparing for What We Hope Never Happens

The U.S. Department of Education suggests that schools should include how they would respond to an active shooter situation in their emergency operations plans. Guidelines include making sure staff know how to respond and what to tell their students. Knowing their options increase their chance of surviving.

The U.S. Department of Education, as well as other agencies including the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Ohio Attorney General's Office, now suggest lockdown should not be the only option. Other options include running, hiding or fighting. They make these suggestions after studying past school shootings.

Marion City Schools chooses to use school safety training from the ALICE Training Institute. ALICE is an acronym for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate**.

We train both staff and students about what options they have. All training for students is age-appropriate. No single response fits every situation, so it helps them to know their options.



Alert  
Lockdown  
Inform  
Counter  
Evacuate

**ALERT:** Inform law enforcement and others by giving as much information as possible.

**LOCKDOWN:** Staff and students should lock the classroom door and barricade in their area if it is not safe to exit.

**INFORM:** Continue to pass along information, including using the school announcement system.

**COUNTER:** As a last resort, use every effort to distract or stop the shooter.

**EVACUATE:** If it is safe to do so, leave the building and run.

We put a heavy emphasis on alert, urging students to remember our safety slogan "**See Something, Say Something**." We ask them to say something to law enforcement or a responsible adult.

## Emergency Plan for Evacuations

When students and staff evacuate a building, such as in a fire drill, they usually only leave the building temporarily. They meet in a designated area outside until school officials or the fire department say they can go back inside the school.

Marion City Schools and local law enforcement have developed a plan to reunite students with their families in the event of an emergency. Students who evacuate would be taken to the Marion County Veterans Memorial Coliseum at the Marion County Fairgrounds where they would stay until parents or guardians arrive.

**If an emergency happens while school is in session, this is how you can help:**

**DO NOT CALL THE SCHOOL.** It will be important to keep both school and home phone lines open. We will use our emergency calling system, website, social media and local media to deliver important information.

**DO NOT GO TO THE SCHOOL.** Roads around the building will be blocked. There will be no way for you to pick up your student at the school. If there is increased congestion at the school, it will be harder for first responders to do their jobs.

## ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS YOUR CHILDREN MAY ASK ABOUT ALICE

**Can I call my parents once I get to safety?** Yes, you can call your parents to let them know you are OK and where you are.

**How will I reunite with my family?** The police and school officials will work together to inform parents where and how to pick up students.

**What do we do if we cannot evacuate?** Do what your teacher tells you to do. This may include moving furniture to barricade the door or throwing items at the intruder.

**Can we evacuate without a teacher?** If there is not a teacher around and you can safely leave the building, you can do so. Keep running until you reach a safe place.

**How do I let the police know I am not the intruder?** Leave the building with your hands in the air so that police know you are not the intruder. Do what officers tell you to do.

**If a student falls and gets hurt while running, can we help them?** If you can quickly help the student, help them. If not, run to safety and let a police officer or responsible adult know so they can get help for the student.