

Tuesday, April 9, 2019

Birmingham Public Schools Parents and Guardians,

Earlier this year, we shared with you our gradual shift to ALICE, an options-based program providing strategies for a violent intruder event, while remaining age and ability-appropriate. ALICE is a program designed to allow individuals or groups to make *informed* choices in instances of a violent intruder. We also shared that districts are expected to educate students using more than just the traditional hide method in accordance with the Department of Education and law enforcement standards.

Throughout the year, we have engaged our staff and community in forums and follow-up Q&A sessions. Staff members participated in eLearning and in-person learning sessions. Many parents attended one of three informational sessions with local law enforcement presenting side by side with the District. We are now ready to move to the next phase of implementation. We invite you to view the ALICE presentation our staff received from the Birmingham Police Department by visiting the [Birmingham Police Department ALICE presentation](#)

Students in Birmingham will be introduced to ALICE concepts in conjunction with one of the next crisis drills to be performed this year. Training will be age- and ability-appropriate as principals work together to create consistent education for all students. Care will be given so that we provide high quality education to our elementary students without causing fear. Please know that **prior to conducting the drill** where ALICE is explained, your building principal will be in communication with you so that you may speak with your child if you wish to do so. To aid in these discussions, we have established a page on our website for resources about school safety, including discussion points for parents and children, which can be found at [www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/safety](http://www.birmingham.k12.mi.us/safety).

We want students prepared and not scared. All training with students on ALICE including this year's crisis drills **will not** include simulated gunfire or violent intruder actors. Principals at all levels have been provided language appropriate for all students that takes into consideration their maturity levels. We will be sharing it on [this site](#), so that you may have conversations before and/or after a drill as desired. We have also put together a list of resources for talking points for parents that may be found on the site.

Ensuring a safe learning community in partnership with our local law enforcement continues to be our focus within the Birmingham Public Schools, and we want to thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

**Rachel M. Guinn**

**Deputy Superintendent**

**Birmingham Public Schools**

31301 Evergreen Road  
Beverly Hills, MI 48025-3800  
(248) 203-3000 ■ Fax (248) 203-3144