

## What can I teach my student to better prepare them should an active shooter incident take place in their school?

Teaching self-awareness habits to your student is probably the most important proactive step in keeping them safe during any critical incident. Self-awareness means being aware of your surroundings and having thought through what you might do in a crisis before a crisis occurs.

Talking with your student about self-awareness does not have to be scary and should be done on a frequent basis. For example, you are at the store when your student runs down another aisle, turns around and realizes you are not there. They quickly run back and find you after just a couple of seconds. This a perfect opportunity to practice self-awareness by asking just a few questions, like: If you had come back and I wasn't here what would you have done next? Who would you have gone to for help?

Let your student come up with their own answers and then guide them with "what ifs" to other acceptable options to help expand the possibilities of acceptable solutions.

As your student gets older and matures, you can make the scenarios and "what ifs" more challenging and detailed. Ask your student about things that might occur when you are not present. For example: seeing a handgun laying on a table while playing at a friend's house or hearing a friend talking about harming others. Do not assume your student already knows what to do. Avoid telling your student what to do, rather have them tell you what they would do and then guide them where needed.

There are daily opportunities to practice self-awareness with your students and the topics are endless.

Lessons may include being approached by a stranger, witnessing an act of bullying, standing up against peer pressure, inappropriate touching, etc.



For further questions or concerns please contact:

Director Safety &  
Security

Gary Majors

[gary.majors@lps53.org](mailto:gary.majors@lps53.org)

816-736-7319

# Talking to Your Student About School Safety



*Grades 3-5  
Guide*

## What should I share with my student when discussing active shooter incidents and their safety while at school?

- You may tell your student that there are a few times where a bad person will make a bad choice to hurt people at schools and other places. These bad people are one reason we have safety drills and practice what to do if this would happen at one of our schools, but the chances of this happening are very remote.
- You should tell your student that schools are one of the safest places they can be. School shootings are on the news so much because they occur very rarely compared to the number of schools that are open and safe every day, so it may seem that the chances of a school shooting are really high, but this is not the case.
- You should share with your student that there are many people who work for the district that have a great deal of experience in keeping people safe and these people are working to make sure everyone is safe in our schools each and every day.

## What do I tell my student when they ask me what they should do if there is an active shooter in their school?

- The best option in most situations for any elementary student is to hide. That said, talk with your student about where they might hide. Guide them toward choices that would totally hide them from view of the person causing harm and remind them to stay there until somebody they know and trusts tells them it is ok to come out.
- Share with your student that there could be a time when there is an unsafe situation going on when they are not in the classroom or maybe when the teacher is not immediately present. Should this occur, your student should be prepared to think from themselves and either find a hiding spot or run away from the incident. Tell your student to avoid hiding in a restroom if possible. If they choose to run, they should exit the building and run to a nearby house or business and stay there until they see ambulances and fire trucks at the school.

- Tell your student that help will be on the way and they only need to be brave for a few minutes. Being brave is trying not to yell or cry and listening to the teacher and doing what they say.

## What can I tell my student that would empower them to feel better about their safety at school?

- Students can be taught that security is everybody's responsibility, including themselves. Even though they are younger they should be instructed that if they see something that doesn't seem right, they should say something to an adult. For example, if they see a door at school being propped open or if a fellow student is making threats about harming themselves or another person, they need to tell someone.
- You can re-enforce to your student the importance of not propping doors open and not opening a door for an adult trying to enter the building.
- Tell your students that, many times, people who have made bad choices have told friends in advance. They will often say that it was just a joke or they didn't really mean it, but these type of statements should be reported and not ignored.