

SAUK CENTRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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February 19, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sauk Centre School District is committed to providing the safest possible environment for our students and staff by taking proactive steps to secure our schools. We want to ensure they have a safe place to learn, work and grow. To maintain our safety standards and adapt to the societal threat of a violent intruder inside our school, we are adopting ALICE proactive strategies districtwide beginning on March 1, 2025.

ALICE stands for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate**. Our staff has undergone comprehensive training, which included presentations and hands-on drills, to ensure they are equipped to handle emergency situations. We want to assure you that ALICE strategies are developmentally appropriate, taking into account the age and ability of each child.

Adoption of a lockdown-only response has been deemed insufficient by the Department of Education, independent researchers, and law enforcement. Society is dictating we change our thought process on safety and ALICE options-based strategies will help increase survivability. We found the ALICE strategies to be the most adopted by schools across the country, and ALICE training helps to maintain our compliance with the federally recommended guidelines.

The elementary families have already been informed of this change and these students have already been introduced to the new approach. **We will have our first ALICE drill with our secondary students on Wednesday, February 26.** Moving forward, all lockdown drills will focus on different aspects of ALICE and use different scenarios for brainstorming and discussion.

ALICE empowers individuals to actively participate in their own safety by providing proactive, options-based responses. We have worked hard to understand each of these responses, and we are confident in the strategies that we are introducing to help both our students and staff remain safe until help arrives.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Donald J. Peschel
Superintendent
Sauk Centre Public Schools
(320) 352-2258