

# Agawam Public Schools



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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Throughout the 2018 – 2019 school year, our district will be conducting ALICE safety drills with students and staff. The first of these drills will have students and staff evacuating the building and walking with their teachers to a safe location. Two safe locations, which are within walking distance, have been designated by the Agawam Police Department for each school. The goal of these first drills is to familiarize students with the safe locations and to have them walk and not run to the safe locations with their teachers.

In subsequent ALICE drills, each school will practice lockdown procedures using a soft barricade. The goal of this subsequent drill is to familiarize students with the process of barricading a classroom, in which teachers have already been trained. Students will also practice how to counter and/or evade an intruder. Third and fourth grade classrooms will practice both barricading and preparing to counter during the lockdown drill. Preschool through second grade classrooms will only practice how to barricade.

This next step in ALICE training deviates from the past practice of students and staff gathering in one corner of the classroom away from the door and windows. At the elementary level, adults within the classroom will barricade the door and not students. However, students will practice how to move within the classroom during the barricading process. Students in grades 5 to 12 will actively participate in the barricading process.

We firmly believe that practicing ALICE drills will not only empower our students and staff, but also provide them with options in the event of an emergency situation. In order to ensure the safety of our students, ALICE drills will be conducted in conjunction with the Agawam Police Department and the district's Safety Supervisor, John Nettis.

Please be advised that students will briefly be leaving school grounds for the first drill. We firmly believe that it is important for all students to participate in the drill, so that they will be aware of the established safety protocols. If you have any questions or concerns, do not hesitate to contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Steven P. Lemanski  
Superintendent of Schools

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c: Principals  
Mayor Sapelli  
School Committee  
Chief Gillis, APD  
J. Nettis, Safety Supervisor

*"Put Children First"*