

Frequently Asked ALICE Questions from Middle School Students

1. How will the SRO react in an ALICE situation?

The SRO will follow police protocol to confront the armed intruder.

2. Can I call my parents once I get to safety?

Please call your parents once you get to a safe place. You can also call 911 and let them know where you are.

3. Can we throw things if there is a man with a gun in our classroom?

Your teacher might choose to throw things from the classroom at the intruder if they come into your classroom. You should be working on a plan to evacuate as soon as you can. You can also throw something at the intruder while you are getting ready to evacuate or while you are evacuating.

4. Can we break a window if the teacher is not there? How do you break a window?

Yes. You can break the window if the teacher is not there. There will be something called a “window punch” attached to one of the windows in your classroom. HOLD the punch tightly against the bottom corner of the window. HOLD it tightly against the window and press the button until the window cracks. Clear the glass away with a chair or something and then carefully climb out and run.

5. How will I reunite with my family?

The district will identify a large place like the public library or the WalMart for everyone to be reunited. Messages will be sent to your parents on where they can meet up with you. Buses will come into the area to transport you to this reunification place.

6. Do substitutes know what to do?

Substitutes have also been trained. They will need students to remind them about the closest exit for evacuation or the best items to use to lockdown and barricade the classroom.

7. Are we allowed to evacuate the building without a teacher?

If you can safely evacuate and there is not a teacher around, you can do so. Remember to run to the closest exit and to not return to the building.

8. What if someone has an injury and cannot evacuate?

If someone is unable to evacuate, locking the classroom and barricading the door is a great option. If you can help the person to evacuate, you can do that as well.

9. What if there is no PA announcement of ALICE?

There may not be a PA or intercom announcement for ALICE. You may not be able to hear it or you just missed hearing it somehow. There are other things that will ALERT you to implement ALICE. For example, you may hear the sounds of gunshots, the sounds of people screaming, see others evacuating the building, etc.

10. Will we be able to come back and get our stuff from the school?

The police will let the district know when it is safe to return to the building. It will not likely be until the following day or may even take a couple of days.

11. Does it matter if the intruder hears the announcement for ALICE?

It does not matter if the intruder hears the announcement of ALICE. They will still have no idea what everyone will do. Who will be locked down and barricaded? Who will be evacuating? The National ALICE Training organization tells us that it is distracting to the intruder to be hearing all of the announcements... and that is a very good thing.

12. How do we lock the door?

The classroom door should have a thumb lock. Press it in and turn it. If there is not a lock, start barricading the door. Your teacher can use a belt or some rope to secure the door mechanism up in the corner.

13. Can we run to our house?

Yes, you can run to your house as long as it is in the direction you are evacuating. Remember to run AWAY from the sound of the threat.

14. What if it is a knife and not a gun?

The same ALICE options apply if it is a gun or a knife. Evacuation is a great option if the intruder has a knife.

15. What if there is more than one intruder?

Use the same ALICE options regardless if there is one or more intruders. Rarely, if ever, is there more than one intruder.

16. What will the staff in the office do?

The front office staff will also be implementing ALICE. They will be using all of their options as well. They could lockdown and barricade in an office or evacuate.

17. What if the intruder comes during a passing period or at the beginning or end of the day?

If the intruder comes in to the school during a time when students are moving around the school, whether at arrival/dismissal or during a passing period, the same ALICE options apply. If you can, run into a classroom and lockdown and barricade. If you can run out a nearby exit door, you can do that also.

18. What if the shooter is a student and knows the ALICE procedure?

Even if the shooter knew that we follow the ALICE protocol, the way the protocol is designed, with students and staff making on-the-spot decisions as to what option they will implement (lockdown, barricade, evacuate, counter), the armed intruder would have no idea in advance what everyone will do or where they will be. This protocol takes the advantage away from the armed intruder.

19. If there is not a PA in the restrooms we can't hear the all call...what would we do?

There will be other "alerts" that will make you aware of what is going on in the building (the sound of gunshots, or other students evacuating the building). Take a look around to determine if it is best to try to barricade yourself inside the restrooms or evacuate the building immediately.

20. Can we run to our house if it is in the direction we are running?

Sure. Once you get there, contact your parents and or the police immediately to let them know of your whereabouts.

21. If a student falls while running and gets hurt, should we help them or keep running?

Certainly see if you and maybe another student or staff can quickly help them, then continue to run to a safe location. If the other student was unable to run with you, once you reach a point of safety, alert a first responder of where the hurt student is so they can go and assist.

22. Why not arm the teachers with a bat or something to use if they have to confront?

There are many objects in the classroom that a teacher could use to throw at and distract the armed intruder (a desk, a chair, a computer, textbooks). These items are easily available and when thrown at the intruder will provide the distraction needed to provide a few moments for evacuation.

23. Can we use our phones to call the police or our parents?

Absolutely. Make sure that if you are using your phone, you do so quickly and continue to pay close attention to your teacher for directions.

24. What if we end up in the hallway and all the classroom doors get locked?

Evacuation is a very good option. Find the closest exit and run from the building as soon and as quickly as possible. Run until you can no longer see the building. When you reach a point of safety, flag down a first responder, call your parents or the police.

25. Some of our classroom doors all open out into the hallway. How would a barricade help?

Barricading helps by putting things in between you and the intruder. Whether it's desks, file cabinets, etc., the more "stuff" that is in the way, the more the intruder has to deal with to get to you, the more likely he will just move on to another room. Don't forget, you can also lockdown by using a belt or other object on the door closer to help keep the door from opening, which provides another barrier to the intruder.