



Rock Falls Township High School District #301

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Ron McCord – Superintendent
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Dear Parents/Guardians:

Unfortunately, over the past couple of years, we have seen a dramatic increase in school violence and school shootings. As the experts analyze these events, it is apparent that we need to do more. Not only do we need to take steps in an attempt to prevent the events from occurring but also train students and staff on procedures that will help increase the odds of survival in the event of an active shooter in our building.

In the past, schools across the country, including RFHS, have utilized a method we call Lockdown or Code Red. That system is designed so that in the event an unauthorized person enters the school building, a Code Red or Lockdown alert is given and students and staff are instructed to lock their classrooms, turn the lights out, and hide in a far corner of the classroom.

During the 2016-17 school year Rock Falls High School adopted a new policy and procedure that we, as well as experts across the country, believe will increase the chance of survival during an active shooter incident. This procedure will teach our staff and students the A.L.I.C.E. system.

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| A lert | Get the word out! Armed Intruder in the building instead of Cod Red.
Use clear, concise language to convey the type and location of the Event. |
| L ockdown | Good starting point. We will continue to lockdown students in secure areas. |
| I nform | Communication keeps the shooter off balance and allows for good decision making. |
| C ounter | Apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control. |
| E vacuate | Reduce the number of potential targets for the shooter, and reduce chances of victims resulting from friendly fire when help arrives. |

According to ALICE, the options listed above do not have to be used in order. They are only established to provide options to those dealing with an active shooter incident.

“ Striving for excellence in our ever-changing world ”

We have previously trained our staff and will be training our students with the emphasis that the best way to survive an active shooter is to escape. When that is not possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to act will save lives.

In closing, in NO WAY are we asking or teaching our students and staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of a secure area. However, we will provide them the knowledge that if faced with a life or death situation, there are methods that can be applied to greatly enhance their chances of survival in the event they are directly confronted by an armed gunman. The method that they will be taught will include the following:

- Cause distractions to interfere with the ability to shoot accurately
- Cause as much chaos in the room as possible to create sensory overload
- Do not be a stationary target
- How to control the attacker by using weight, not strength
- How to interact with responding Law Enforcement

For more information on ALICE, you can visit www.rfhs301.org and click on the ALICE link on the main page. Or if you have any other concerns regarding our new policies and procedures, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Berentes', with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Mike Berentes