



# Community Consolidated School District 46

Dr. Lynn Glickman, Superintendent

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## Safety and Security Update

The safety of our students and staff is the highest priority. The district is continually working on updating our security infrastructure and building our safety culture through our Safety and Security Committee (SSC). The members of this committee are CCSD 46 staff including teachers, district and building administration, support staff as well members of local enforcement. Through this committee's work we have implemented several initiatives throughout the last school year and we would like to share with you our plans to improve safety and security moving forward.

Cameras have been installed at Grayslake Middle School to allow immediate access to all parts of the school buildings, with main entrance camera / buzzer intercom systems installed at all buildings. New district-wide radios have been purchased and a new keycard system has been implemented at all buildings. Moving forward, we will continue to assess our infrastructure at all of our buildings throughout the district.

Schools perform various required safety drills including fire, bus evacuation, severe weather, and active shooter response. Following a recommendation from the SSC and Board approval in May 2022, the District this school year will implement ALiCE as our active shooter response procedures. ALiCE is used by many school districts throughout the country, including many surrounding school districts. ALiCE stands for:

- **ALERT:** Get the word out that a threat exists
- **LOCKDOWN:** Secure a place to stay. May include barricading an entryway

- **INFORM:** Give constant, real-time information throughout the building using all available technology
- **COUNTER:** This is a last resort. If evacuation is not an option, countering may be as simple as creating a distraction to allow opportunities to escape
- **EVACUATE:** The goal is to move students out of the danger zone. It's important to be prepared to escape

In July 2022, the district's leadership team was trained to be ALiCE certified trainers. On October 7th, all staff will experience onsite training on the awareness and response strategies options of ALiCE. These principles will empower staff to make informed decisions should an attack occur. As noted above, ALiCE training does include strategies for "countering," or actions that create noise, movement, distance and distraction with the intent of reducing an intruder's ability to shoot accurately. Any consideration of these strategies will be taken with great care, understanding that we want to keep students informed and safe without causing additional emotional distress. For these reasons we have chosen to eliminate this option for students fourth grade and under. Training involving any countering strategies will be implemented in grades 5th-8th.

We understand that parents and guardians may have questions about this change in our safety protocols. Further information will be communicated in both English and Spanish at our scheduled ALiCE parent nights. These sessions will be live streamed and recorded and be available later for the community who missed them in person:

- October 13, 2022: 6:30-7:30pm at Park Campus
- October 19, 2022: 6:30-7:30pm at Grayslake Middle School

We are mindful that this topic can be highly emotional, and each person will react differently. As such, we want to ensure that our students, families, and staff know the following about any upcoming student safety trainings and drills:

- Trainings and drills do not include any simulations that mimic an actual armed intruder incident or active shooter event

- Drills are announced in advance to all school personnel and students before they begin
- Trainings and drills include and involve school personnel, including school-based mental health professionals
- Trainings and drills Include trauma-informed approaches to address the concerns and well-being of students and school personnel
- Trainings permit students to ask questions
- Parents/guardians can opt students out of training and drills by contacting the principal

Following the staff and parent nights, all students will begin to be introduced to ALiCE principles during the school day. Specific dates will be provided to families prior to the student trainings. Following student trainings, drills will be conducted at individual buildings.

We know that there are many questions that surround safety and security procedures in our schools. Please don't hesitate to contact the principal with any questions.