September 18, 2019

Dear Parents & Guardians:

The safety and well-being of our students remain a top priority for the District. We want to provide you an update regarding the District’s ALICE implementation plan. ALICE, which stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate, is an evidence-based plan that aligns to the recommendations of the U.S. Department of Education and is used in school districts across the nation. The District has been using ALICE since 2015. More information regarding ALICE can be accessed at their website: https://www.alicetraining.com/

New state legislation (Public Act 100-0996) mandates that students present at school participate in one active shooter drill each year. One week prior to the drill, principals will send a letter to parents (via backpacks PreK-8 and listserv 9-12) announcing the date and time of the ALICE drill. Administrators and teachers will utilize a standard script at every campus clarifying this is a drill and not a real emergency. This year, the focus of the drills will be on the Alert and Evacuate components of ALICE. Prearranged absences during active shooter drills will be excused.

After garnering feedback from parents, the District decided to offer two 4-hour ALICE trainings for parents interested in learning more about this approach. One training was held September 10, 2019, and a second training will be held:

- Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 4:00-8:00 p.m., at Center for Family and Community Engagement, 703 S. New Street, Champaign

If you have additional questions related to crisis plans, please contact Orlando Thomas, Director of Achievement and Student Services, at 217-351-3792.

Sincerely,

Dr. Susan Zola
Superintendent