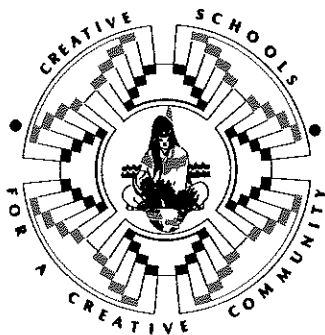




Cinnaminson Township Public Schools

Administrative Offices

P.O. Box 224

Cinnaminson, New Jersey 08077

Tel 856-829-7600 Fax 856-786-9618

November 17, 2016

Dear Cinnaminson Parent/Guardian:

Unfortunately, over the past several years there has been an increase in school violence and school shootings. Looking at what has occurred in some schools and colleges, it is apparent that if an armed intruder wants to get into a school, there is a good chance that the person will probably succeed. Thus, it is imperative to continually train staff and students on procedures that can help them survive an active shooter in our schools.

The district has taken necessary steps in the matter of security in our schools including close cooperation with the Cinnaminson Police Department, installing monitored school entry systems and the planned installation of more cameras throughout our schools and on school buses. Even so, we still need to ask are there better, proven ways, to respond to a threat?

Similar to school districts across the country, our school district currently uses a "lockdown" method in the event an unauthorized person enters a school or is on school grounds. A lockdown is when staff and students are instructed to lock their classroom with lights out and hide in a far corner of the room while remaining calm and quiet. Can we expect, however, for an armed person who enters our schools with the intent to do harm, to simply leave when that person finds that a classroom door is locked? In studying various school shooting incidents, we know that the answer is no. Students have been shot hiding under a desk or huddled in a corner of a classroom, library or cafeteria.

So, how do we give our students and staff a greater chance of surviving an active shooter? We give them more tools.

One member of the Cinnaminson Police and one from the Fire Department were sent for training this past July in a new procedure; A.L.I.C.E. After the training, the township police department made a recommendation to the school district to adopt this new procedure to better prepare teachers and students if an armed intruder enters the building. The school district has accepted the recommendation and is teaching our staff and students the A.L.I.C.E. system.

What does A.L.I.C.E. mean?

Alert Get the word out! Armed Intruder in building! Use clear, concise language to convey the type and location of the event.

Lockdown/barricade We will continue to lockdown students in a secure area and additionally will barricade the room to prevent possible entry by an intruder.

Inform Communication keeps the shooter off balance and allows for good decision making.

Counter Apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control.

Evacuate Reduce the number of potential targets for the shooter, and reduce injuries and fatalities.

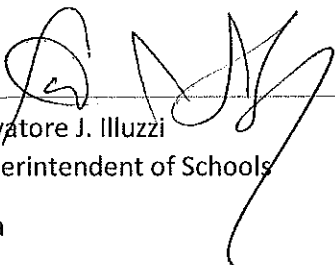
In short, using the above A.L.I.C.E. method we will teach our students and staff in the event an armed intruder/active shooter invades their school area they;

1. Listen carefully to the location and type of event.
2. Get to and/or remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.
3. Should an armed intruder/active shooter invade their secure area, apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control.
4. As soon as it is safe to do so, evacuate.

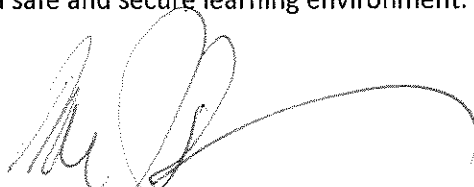
In closing, in **NO WAY** are we asking or teaching our students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide them the knowledge that if faced with a life or death situation there are methods that can be applied to greatly enhance their chance of survival.

Thank you for your support and cooperation as the Cinnaminson School District and Police Department work with our staff and students to assure a safe and secure learning environment.

Sincerely,



Salvatore J. Illuzzi
Superintendent of Schools
/kta



Michael King
Director of Public Safety