

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The best way to be and feel as safe as possible in our schools is to be ever vigilant. Therefore, last night the School Committee approved two additional half days for the full implementation of ALICE training for this school year for the Abington Public Schools. ALICE training is a response to the threat of a violent intruder in schools, businesses or public areas. It is a universal response that provides people with options in the event that they are in danger.

The attached PowerPoint provides some information regarding ALICE training. ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. More information will be forthcoming in the weeks and months ahead including an evening for parents and guardians to get information and ask questions.

Although nationally only about 25% of schools have shifted from traditional Lockdown to ALICE, it is the predominantly recommended program among emergency agencies and safety task forces around the country. The goal is to complete the training across the district and with students by the close of this school year.

The following is the complete update to our in-service/early release schedule which includes ALICE training for staff and a make-up in-service/early release day lost due to inclement weather. A revised District Calendar is also attached. As it stands, the tentative last day for students will be June 20th. We have had a total of 6 snow days to date.

- March 8, 2018, in-service/early release day is rescheduled due to the cancellation of school because of inclement weather to Monday, April 30, 2018. Our work will include:
 - High School: NEASC Reports
 - Middle School: Department and Building Based Professional Development in Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment and Technology
 - Woodsdale School: Technology Online MCAS Logistics
 - Beaver Brook School: Building-Based Curriculum Planning
 - Abington Early Education Program: Waterford Pilot and NAEYC Planning
- The addition of two in-service/early release days on Friday, May 11, 2018, and Monday, June 11, 2018, for ALICE training for faculty and staff.

Regardless of the challenges we all face, I continue to feel fortunate to be doing this critical work. We need to continue to meet these challenges head on and with vigilance. Our students deserve no less. As always, please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Peter Schafer
Superintendent of Schools

Please click on the links to learn more:

[ALICE Training](#)

[2017-2018 Revised Calendar](#)