



CENTENNIAL

SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

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News Release

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Centennial Schools Invests in Safety and Security, Enhances Lockdown Protocol

Changes traditional lockdown protocol to A.L.I.C.E.

October 17, 2015 (Circle Pines, MN) —Thanks to voter approval of a levy in 2014, Centennial School District 12 is making safety and security upgrades in all of its buildings. In addition to the additional security precautions, the District also changed the way it would respond to an active threat inside its schools.

In the summer, Centennial staff participated in a two-day training alongside its law enforcement partners at Anoka County Sheriff's Office where they became certified in the A.L.I.C.E. procedure. A.L.I.C.E. is an acronym that stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate. A.L.I.C.E. teaches individuals to participate in their own survival while leading others to safety. This procedure enhances the current lockdown protocol practiced by students and staff throughout the school year.

"The safety for our students is our number one priority," said **Brian Dietz, Superintendent of Schools**. "We know the feeling of security enhances a student's learning, and we want to be prepared in case an incident occurs in our schools," he added.

Staff has been trained on the protocol, and this week, they are teaching their students how to respond to a threat in the building. "Teachers are leading age-appropriate discussions in their classrooms around safety and security, and will practice the enhanced protocol during drills scheduled throughout the year," said **Tom Breuning, Principal, Centennial High School**. "Safety and learning go hand-in-hand. The District is concerned with the safety of our students, both physically and mentally," he added.

The District has communicated information to parents about the protocol and the safety and security updates. A video can be found at isd12.org; information is posted at isd12.org/parents/safety-and-security-centennial/alice.

Safety and security upgrades at the schools include building access control upgrades, visitor management system, security camera installation, exterior lighting, emergency light, VOIP phone system, intercom, and paging.

About A.L.I.C.E.

The purpose of A.L.I.C.E. (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training is to prepare individuals to handle the threat of an active shooter. Though no one can guarantee success in this type of situation, the new set of skills will greatly increase the odds of survival should anyone face this form of disaster. The new response process is supported by national and local emergency response organizations and is rooted in SWAT tactics. Officers on all levels identify with its core strategies, and The National Association of School Resource Officers is an A.L.I.C.E. partner.