



# ALICE: THE BCPS ACTIVE ASSAILANT PROTOCOL

*Department of School Safety*





# ACTIVE ASSAILANT APPROACH

## Safe Schools Act of 2018

The Safe Schools Act of 2018 authorized the Maryland State Department of Education to adopt rules for active assailant drills. An active assailant is someone who enters or approaches a building with the intent of doing harm to others. In many cases, an active assailant is a shooter but could also use other means to inflict harm.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT APPROACH

## PARTNERSHIP

During the fall of 2018, Baltimore County Public Schools in partnership with the Baltimore County Police Department introduced a new response to an active assailant.



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## PREPARATIONS

- During summer 2018, over 300 administrators, law enforcement personnel, and lead teachers received certification in the selected protocol.

Three, 2-day instructor trainer sessions were held during the months of July and August of 2018. Instructors completed an online test for certification in order to train school and office staff.

- School and office staff completed a one-hour, online training before participating in a three-hour face-to-face training prior to the first day of school.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE

## WHY CHANGE?

Case studies of several active assailant incidents such as Columbine High School, Virginia Tech University, and Sandy Hook Elementary School have shown that using a *lockdown* protocol alone resulted in an increase in casualties.

Federal and local agencies and law enforcement partners recommend an option-based protocol.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT PROTOCOL

## ALICE

The active assailant protocol selected for Baltimore County Public Schools is called ALICE. ALICE stands for:

- Alert – receiving initial notice of a critical event
- Lockdown – securing occupants behind closed doors
- Inform – notifying staff and students of potential danger throughout the event
- Counter – creating noise, movement, distance, and distraction
- Evacuate – leaving the area of the danger

*These responses are not implemented in any specific order.*



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## WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

ALICE is an option-based protocol. Staff and students now respond based on the information they have about the situation. In the past, the only option available was *lockdown*.

- Lockdown has been updated to an enhanced lockdown protocol.
- Evacuation is now a location off of school grounds.
- If an active assailant breaches a secure location, occupants may counter the attacker.
- Information will be provided during an event as available and as possible.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE



## HOW WILL STUDENTS LEARN THE NEW PROTOCOL?

- Students participated in scenario-based drills that gradually acquainted them with the best response protocol based on their situation.
- Parents received notification of active assailant drills and a summary of the content of the drill as the new protocol was introduced.
- Students will continue to receive information about the various protocol in an age-appropriate way.







# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE



**QUESTIONS??**

