



# ALICE: THE BCPS ACTIVE ASSAILANT PROTOCOL

*Department of School Safety*





# ACTIVE ASSAILANT APPROACH

## Safe Schools Act of 2018

The Safe Schools Act of 2018 requires school systems in Maryland to conduct 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 an active 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 will introduce a new response to an active assailant.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT APPROACH

## 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. Instructors had to complete an online test for certification in order to train school staff.

- School staff first completed a one-hour, online training and then school staff participated in a three-hour face-to-face training prior to the start of school.



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE

## WHY CHANGE?

Case studies of several active shooter 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.*



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT APPROACH

## WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

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

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



# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE



## HOW WILL STUDENTS LEARN THE NEW PROTOCOL?

- Current protocols will remain in place until students have been informed and trained.
- Students will receive information about the various protocol in an age-appropriate way. *Students are already familiar with the protocols currently used by BCPS.*
- Students will participate in scenario-based drills that will gradually acquaint them with the best response protocol based on their situation. *Students currently practice eight emergency responses.*
- Parents will receive notification of active assailant drills and a summary of the content of the drill as the new protocol is introduced.







# ACTIVE ASSAILANT RESPONSE



**QUESTIONS??**

