

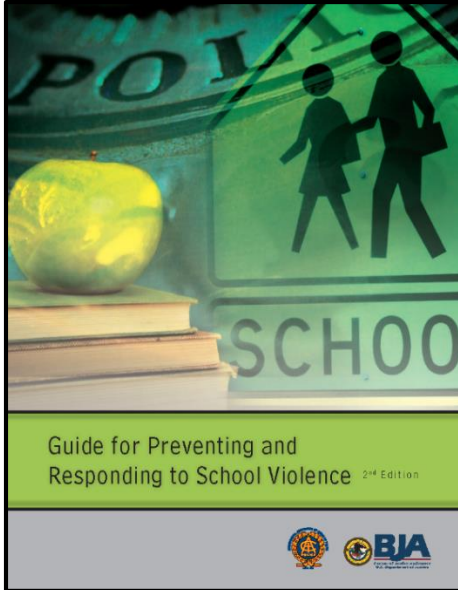


# Active Shooter Recommendations

## International Association of Chiefs of Police

A "Lockdown Only" response to an Active Shooter  
No Longer meets Government Recommendations

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## International Association of Chiefs of Police

- *Guide for Preventing & Responding to School Violence (2009)*

## Agency Participants in Authoring this Document

- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
- US Department of Justice (DOJ)
- Bureau of Justice Statistics
- Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

See what this National Association recommends for Active Shooter response.

### Findings

In its 1st edition, the IACP guidance for active shooter response was limited to lockdown. The most current edition expands the guidance to include multiple options that go beyond lockdown including evacuation and active resistance. It also contemplates the absence of adult direction that sometimes unfortunately happens during an active shooter event.

### Background

Founded in 1893, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) is the world's oldest and largest association of law enforcement executives, representing over 22,000 members in 100 countries. The document presents strategies and approaches for members of school communities to consider when creating safer learning environments.

### Lockdown is no Longer Enough

*"Active resistance is fighting back with any objects of opportunity, such as chairs, desk, and books. Active resistance is a last resort and should only be used if potential victims are trapped in a room with an active shooter, there are already victims, and all other personal survival recommendations are no longer an option. There have been cases where active resistance has been successfully used, such as a shooting in Springfield, Oregon." [Page 24]*

### Those in Harm's Way Should Make Their Own Decisions

*"Teachers should make decision about lockdown or evacuation on their own only in life-threatening situations, as specified in the school crisis management plan." [Page 24]*

*"In the absence of adult direction, decide where it is safest to be and remain there." [Page 25]*

## Is your School exercising an appropriate “Standard of Care” in its “Duty to Protect” staff and students?

### Schools: A Duty to Protect

Since Jefferson founded public education for the citizens of the United States, schools have been charged with the safety of children in their care - a duty to protect. Teachers and administrators have a responsibility to anticipate potential dangers and to take precautions to protect their students from those dangers.

### What is the Standard of Care?

If a school district fails its duty to protect students from injury and an appropriate standard of care was not used, the district can be found negligent. The standard of care is not a statute or regulation that can be pointed to and expounded upon. The standard of care is a concept that is argued in courtrooms requiring school districts to answer questions like:

1. Did you comply with federal & state recommendations?
2. Is your policy consistent with comparable schools?
3. Did you comply with your own stated policy?

### ALICE: the New Standard of Care

Historically, government agencies have recommended a lockdown-only approach that includes students hiding under desks or against walls. Some of these techniques originated during the cold-war as a method of protection from a nuclear threat. As ridiculous as this now seems, it was accepted in the era.

Today, government agencies (including the US Department of Education) have spent considerable resources researching active shooting events. Their findings have resulted in a change in guidance - a movement away from the cold war era techniques typically used in a lockdown-only approach. ALICE protocols are used almost exclusively in all new guidance.

Following current federal and state recommendations is a major step in limiting a school districts liability by demonstrating they have met today's standard of care.

### Endorsed by Law Enforcement across the Country

ALICE is endorsed by law enforcement across the country and in line with recommendations from the: Department of Homeland Security (DHS); Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); US Department of Education; along with many state agencies across the US.

### About ALICE

The ALICE program was authored by a police officer to keep his wife, an elementary school principal, safe after the tragic events at Columbine. Since these humble beginnings, ALICE continues to be the leading active shooter response program in the US.

ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) training helps prepare individuals to handle the threat of an Active Shooter. ALICE teaches individuals to participate in their own survival, while leading others to safety. Though no one can guarantee success in this type of situation, this new set of skills will greatly increase the odds of survival should anyone face this form of disaster.

### Get ALICE Certified

Being an ALICE certified organization demonstrates to your stakeholders that you are serious about safety: including the safety of your employees; visitors; and in the cases of schools – our children.

The ALICE Certified mark, which is backed by our research and years of experience, indicates to your stakeholders that you have gone the extra mile to practice safety training that has been deemed to be critical to help survive today's violent intruder events. To learn more please visit us at [www.AliceTraining.com](http://www.AliceTraining.com)



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