

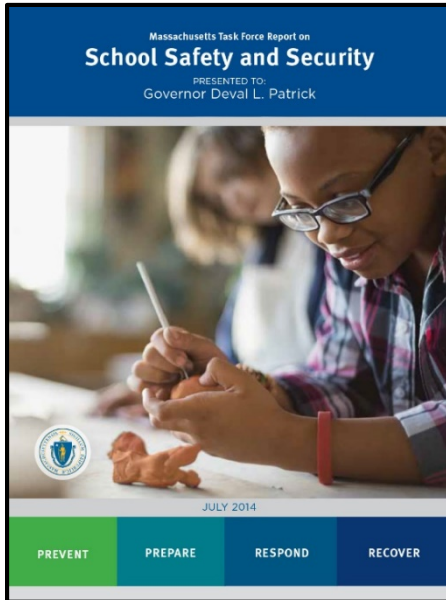


Active Shooter Recommendations

State of Massachusetts Task Force

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

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State of Massachusetts Task Force – Governor Patrick

- *Massachusetts Task Force on School Safety & Security (2014)*

Agency Participants in Authoring this Document

- Secretary of Public Safety
- Secretary of Education
- Secretary of Health & Human Services
- Massachusetts State Police (Lt Colonel Amodeo)
- Massachusetts Teacher Association (Jean Fay)

See what this government Agency recommends for Active Shooter response.

Findings

Included in the Massachusetts Task Force Report on School Safety and Security recommendations to the Governor is the concept that Lockdown is no longer a stand-alone strategy to secure in place. The Task Force's new recommendations specifically list ALICE Training as a response to the event of a violent threat.

Background

In 2014, Governor Deval Patrick signed Executive Order 548 establishing a task force on school safety. This task force held meetings throughout the Commonwealth and heard from teachers, superintendents, parents, students and law enforcement experts who presented research and best practices on active shooter response. Included is a recommendation that specifically includes ALICE.

Specifically Recommends ALICE

"Depending on the situation, there are several ways to enhance a lockdown to empower individuals to take common sense actions critical to their safety. These may include: 1) barricading the door using available furniture and other objects; 2) distracting or countering the assailant, and 3) self-evacuation. These actions are often based on the response strategies of Alert – Lockdown – Inform – Counter – Evacuate (ALICE). Any enhanced lockdown requires proper training and practice for all staff and students and educating parents on its benefits." [Page 16]

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

