



CUMBY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

303 Sayle Street • Cumby, Texas 75433
Phone 903-994-2775 Fax 903-994-2399
Shelly Slaughter, Superintendent

EDUCATING TOMORROW'S LEADERS TODAY

Friday, March 02, 2018

Parents and Guardians,

The recent Florida school shooting tragedy, along with the dramatic increase in school violence across the country, have evoked fear in the hearts of every parent, child, teacher, and school employee. Our thoughts and prayers go out to all of those involved. We want to assure you that our school system has a network of security procedures and practices in place to help keep our children safe.

There is no plan that guarantees 100 percent safety to all students and staff in every situation; however, Cumby ISD continually strives to protect our students and we will continue daily to be vigilant in maintaining peace at school to ensure safety for our students. We work diligently to maximize student and employee safety in our school.

We do this by:

- Maintaining excellent relationships with our local and county police departments as well as our local fire department. They provide outstanding rapid response services whenever called. The Cumby Police Department has officers on our campuses and in our districts daily. Due to recent events, beginning Monday, March 5th, their campus presence will increase in addition to the mornings and afternoons when they are already here.
- Regularly practicing school-wide drills at each campus, including lockdown drills, to prepare for worst case scenarios. Each campus has a lockdown and evacuation plan specifically designed for their campus.
- Investing in technology security systems at each campus. Examples include video intercom systems and multiple video surveillance cameras at each campus. All exterior doors at our schools are locked and buzz-in systems and video surveillance cameras are in place at the main entrance at all schools.
- Requiring all staff members to have a copy of the Crisis Management Plan for their campus. Our Safety and Security Team review the Crisis Management Plan procedures with staff and stress the importance of being observant and vigilant.
- Requiring all teachers to have their classroom doors locked throughout each day.
- Maintaining an emergency communications system that we use to connect rapidly with our parents by phone, text, and/or e-mail.
- Implementing the A.L.I.C.E. protocol (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate) As experts analyze these horrific events it is apparent that we need to do more, not only taking steps in an attempt to prevent the event from occurring but training of students and staff on procedures that are needed to survive an active shooter in our schools. Cumby ISD, in conjunction with the

Hopkins County Sheriff's Office and our Cumby law agency, are taking a proactive stance. Cumby ISD faculty has completed active shooter training that is based on the most current research on how to increase the rate of survival during an active shooter incident. **(See below for more detail)**

This procedure will teach our students the A.L.I.C.E. system. A.L.I.C.E. stands for:

Alert	Get the word out! Armed Intruder in the building instead of the use of any codes. Use clear, concise language to convey the type and specific location of the event.
Lockdown	Good starting point. We will continue to Lockdown students in secure areas.
Inform	Continuation of the use of clear, concise language to convey the type and specific location of the event. Communication keeps the Shooter off balance and allows for good decision-making.
Counter	Apply Skills to Distract, Confuse and gain Control.
Evacuate	Reduce the number of Potential Targets for the shooter, and reduce chances of victims resulting from friendly fire when help arrives.

Using the above method we will teach our students and staff what to do in the event an armed intruder/active shooter enters the building including:

1. Listen carefully to the location and type of event.
2. Get to and /or remain in a secure area until it is safe to evacuate.
3. Should an armed intruder/active shooter evade their area, apply skills to distract, confuse and gain control.
4. As soon as it is safe to do so, evacuate.

We are NOT asking or teaching students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed gunman outside of their secure area. However, we will provide the research-based knowledge and skills needed, that if faced with a life or death situation, they can utilize to greatly enhance their chance of survival. Training will emphasize that the best way to survive an active shooter is to escape. When that is not possible, being mentally prepared and having been given the authority and ability to act will save lives.

In closing, Cumby ISD will continue to do everything we can to ensure our children are educated in an environment that is safe, healthy, and supportive. Please feel free to contact me at (903) 994-4810 or e-mail at shelly.slaughter@cumbyisd.net. You may also contact other administrators: Jennifer Dracos, High School Principal, at jennifer.dracos@cumbyisd.net, Doug Wicks, Elementary Principal, at doug.wicks@cumbyisd.net, or Tom Dracos, Athletic Director, at tom.dracos@cumbyisd.net.

Sincerely,

Cumby ISD Board and Administrative Team