Dear Parents:

Across the country over the past several years we have seen a dramatic increase in school violence and school shootings. As the 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.

Washtenaw County Schools, in partnership with Washtenaw Intermediate School District, Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office and local law enforcement agencies, are taking a proactive stand. During the 2013-14 school year trained law enforcement officials and school personnel will be providing active shooter training that is based on the most current research on how to increase the rate of survival during an active shooter incident.

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

Alert — Get the word out! Armed Intruder in building instead of Code Red Use clear, concise language to convey the type and location of the event.

Lockdown — Good starting point. We will continue to lockdown student in secure area.

Inform — 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.

In closing, 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.

Sincerely,

Superintendent