

School Safety Training for Students

A message from Eugene School District 4J and your school



Dear families,

The safety of our students is of the utmost importance. We want to let you know about new safety procedures that students will learn about in school this spring, and about how you can learn more.

Best Practices for Safety

In Eugene School District 4J we are committed to giving our students, staff and schools the best practices to keep everyone as safe as possible in an emergency. Although school fires are very rare, we practice with students how to evacuate safely in case of a fire. Similarly, although school violence is also quite rare, we practice emergency safety procedures such as lockout and lockdown drills.

The district has updated protocols for improving school safety, as recommended by our local law enforcement, the U.S. Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, and more. The district's updated safety protocols, known as ALiCE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate), expand on our traditional safety practices and empower staff and students with more options to use during a life-threatening emergency, the kind we all hope never happens. That could include helping to barricade a door, evacuating the building on a moment's notice, or even making loud noises, throwing objects, and interfering with an intruder if a threat is in the room and there is absolutely no other option. ALiCE empowers everyone to use their best judgment on each unique situation.

Sharing with Students

Our district began implementing ALiCE protocols and training for all staff two years ago. Now, after thoughtful preparation, we will be introducing the updated protocols to students this spring. 4J schools will begin to share these strategies with students during the months of May and June.

The student safety training will be age-appropriate, different at the elementary, middle and high school levels, and sensitive to students' special needs. At elementary schools, students will have age-appropriate class discussions, practice evacuating, and talk about barricading. At middle and high schools, class discussions will include more specifics about potential dangers and options, and students will practice evacuating, sheltering or barricading in response to a threat. Although staff have trained with active-shooter drills, students will not participate in such simulations.

Preview for Parents

Parents will have an opportunity to review ALiCE materials and ask questions of district staff and local law enforcement on two evenings this month. If you would like to learn more before these safety concepts and strategies are shared with your student in class, please come to a parent information night or talk to your school about reviewing the materials at a different time.

Parent Information Nights: Student Safety Training

- Monday, April 17, 7:00–8:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 26, 5:30–6:30 p.m.

4J Education Center, 200 N. Monroe St., Eugene

Spanish interpretation will be provided. Childcare is not available.

We intend to continue sharing our plans with you as we work together to support a safe school environment for all. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk with your principal. Thank you.