

Dear WSD Parents and Guardians,

Wentzville School District's first priority is always the safety and well being of our students. We do our best to make sure students enjoy an environment of safety and security in which to learn. To this end, we follow all national, state, and local efforts, whether it be transportation, nutrition, or our emergency drills (fire, earthquake or intruder lockdowns). Last year, we began to work with local and state law enforcement agencies to review and update our practices in light of increasing shooter violence. We want to keep parents informed and included in this process every step of the way. During June of 2018, school building and District volunteers took part in a seminar hosted by Tier One Tactical Solutions (<http://tieronetacticalsolutions.com>), a group of law enforcement members who train other law enforcement departments, commercial industries, and school districts on how best to protect students if there were involved in an incident involving an active shooter. These school building and District volunteers implemented the training for our staff at each school building and WSD departments in August and September of this year.

The Wentzville School District has embraced an approach to promote student safety with regard to active shooters. This approach is known as ASIRT (Active Shooter Intrusion and Response Training) and it incorporates the 4 E approach: Education, Evade, Escape, and Engage. This options-based program trains students and staff to use the best option given any set of circumstances. Last year, the WSD introduced the first two E's of the program: Educate and Evade. The education piece introduces the 4 E's to the students - sharing with them the common vocabulary needed to have informed and insightful conversations with their teachers. Evade, the second E, builds on the lockdown practices the WSD has employed for years. We added new ideas on how best to lockdown a classroom in the quickest, most efficient way possible.

This year, we will address the final 2 E's: Escape and Engage. Staff will discuss Escape with the students which instructs the students to leave the building when they believe it is safe to do so during an actual crisis. We will NOT be leaving or running from the building in drills. Engage is an option that will be discussed with students in grades 3-12. When there is no other option, students can distract an intruder by throwing anything available and fight back to increase their chances of survival. Engage will not be discussed with PreK-2nd grade students. We will NOT have any drills with anyone pretending to have a weapon. Rally points will be shared with the students so that in the event there is an emergency situation, the students who leave the building can meet at the designated rally point. Thank you for your support as we continue to do everything we can to ensure your children are safe at school.

Thank you,

WSD Community Relations