

## What can I do as a parent in the event of this type of situation?

Know that in a crisis, telephone lines may become overwhelmed. Access to the school may be restricted. The Columbia School District #4 will initiate communication as quickly as possible, providing instructions reuniting you with your child through our secure process.

To ensure you receive timely updates, please make sure your CONTACT INFORMATION is always current. Notify the school of any change to your address, telephone numbers and emergency contacts.

Frequently ask your child about the drills and training that they have practiced in school.

## What else can I do?

You can also emphasize with your child the importance of:

1. Listening to all information that comes across the intercom system.
2. Following the instructions of the teacher or any adult in charge.
3. Taking all drills seriously to be prepared for what to do in the event of an actual emergency.
4. Making sure that he/she reports to an adult when the outside doors are propped open or left open for others.
5. Telling an adult when he/she knows someone has plans to bring a weapon to school, whether they believe them or not.
6. Telling an adult if someone has brought a weapon to school whether your child has seen it or not.
7. Reporting any dark, negative, or disturbing comments and/or social media posts.

## Also, you can:

1. Have frequent discussions with your child regarding their feelings about active intruder situations.
2. Create safety plans for your family at home.

## Tier One Tactical Solutions, LLC

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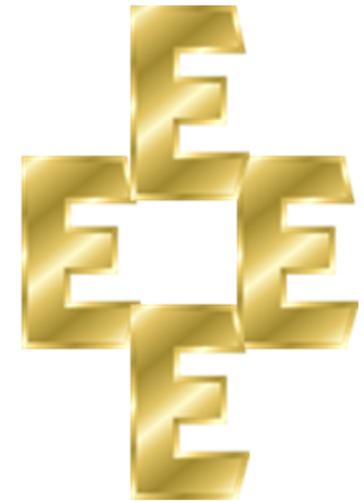


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## Tips for Parents

Talking to your child about  
Active Intruder Situations



## ***What is Options-Based Active Intruder Training?***

The Columbia School District #4 has adopted options-based active intruder protocols based on the recommendation of the U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. These agencies recommend that all school districts teach students and staff options that may be available to them in an intruder situation.

The foundation of our options-based active intruder program is the 4E© concept. The 4E's represent **E**ducate, **E**vade, **E**scape and **E**ngage.

The **E****D****U****C****A****T****E** option is where students learn and practice the terminology and skills taught in the 4E© program. Students also learn to keep their school safe by observing and reporting anything wrong whether it is seen, heard, or felt. **COMMUNICATION IS KEY!**

Students learn about the **E****V****A****D****E** option by locking doors, turning off the lights, covering the window, and using items in the room to barricade the door.

The **E****S****C****A****P****E** option instructs students and staff to leave the building, when it is believed that it is safe to do so, by the quickest possible path, and under the direction of the teacher as circumstances allow.

The **E****N****G****A****G****E** option is not part of the elementary grade training, but is taught at a later age/grade level. Under the direction of a teacher, students are instructed that when there is an imminent threat and no other option is viable, students can distract by throwing available objects and fighting back.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### ★ ***What should I say to my child if they have concerns about an intruder coming into their school?***

The subject of active intruders can be unsettling for students and staff.

If your child is concerned that something like this might happen at school, remind he/she that it is necessary to be prepared and practice active intruder drills just as they do fire drills, tornado drills and earthquake drills.

The goal of all emergency drills is to help students learn how to think and react in an emergency situation.

### ★ ***Why did the District change to an options-based active intruder model instead of the “traditional” lockdown?***

In the past, locking down a facility was the only response utilized regarding an active intruder. However, research has shown that allowing staff and students to employ options when dealing with active intruders increases the chances of surviving a critical incident.

### ★ ***What if my child or I have specific questions or concerns about active intruder information?***

If you or your child have any questions or concerns about the topic, feel free to contact your child's principal.

Make sure your child knows that he/she should tell an adult right away if another person talks about hurting others, themselves or obtaining any type of weapon, even if they think the person is joking.

Students should also report any potential safety issues to an adult such as a fire, a tripping hazard or an unidentified person(s) in any school building.

### ★ ***Why should my child participate in active intruder drills?***

Drills are a way for students and staff to practice and be prepared to act in a crisis. Active intruder drills are clearly identified as “***Only a Drill***.” All students should be trained so that they are not only able to use these skills taught at the school, but also in any dangerous situation they may encounter outside of school, as well.

### ★ ***What is a reunification point?***

In the event of a crisis that requires the temporary evacuation of the building, the Columbia School District #4 has a designated reunification point. Should a crisis event occur, the school will be inaccessible except to first responders (police, firefighters, EMS, etc.) To reunite you with your child as quickly as possible, a reunification point is established off site and away from the commotion to aid in reuniting students with their families. In such an event, appropriate reunification information will be communicated to parents as quickly as possible.



Training by certified 4E - Tier One Tactical Solutions personnel has been provided to administrators, teacher, and staff at Columbia School District #4. The initial district training took place in 2013, with the most recent district training being in October, 2017. The district is in compliance with the IL School Safety Drill Act which requires schools to conduct an emergency drill each academic year involving the local law enforcement agency. In addition, annually, all new teachers to the district are trained during induction. Safety is a top priority of Columbia School District #4.

