



Student Safety Update _____

September 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Student safety and security is a top priority in the El Segundo Unified School District. ESUSD has been working with the El Segundo Police Department, as well as surrounding school districts, to ensure we take measures that keep our staff and students safe and prepared. Last fall, all ESUSD teachers were trained by Dave Klug and Associates, in conjunction with ESPD, on responding to violence on campus. Our next step is to ensure all of our students are adequately prepared to respond in cases of school violence. During the 2018-19 school year, teachers will train all students using an adapted “Run, Hide, Fight” (RHF) protocol. In 2012, the Department of Justice, led by the FBI, was tasked with training law enforcement agencies across the country, in order to protect schools, workplaces, places of worship, public gathering sites and communities. The FBI developed the RHF protocol so civilians could effectively respond to violence in schools, workplaces, and places of worship.

Given the nature of the content, ESUSD is sensitive to the differing sensibilities and developmental maturity of students. The RHF protocol has been modified in partnership with ESPD and mental health staff to be appropriate and effective for students. Children in grades TK – 3 will be trained in the importance of following directions during lock-down and evacuation drills; no mention of “intruder” or “shooter” will be made. ESUSD students in grades 4-12 **only** will receive a formal training on a modified version of RHF called “Run, Hide, *Distract*.” The training varies based on grade level and the term “violent intruder” is used. Staff will modify the training to meet the individualized needs of students and their classrooms, as needed.

Your school principal will inform you of the student training date(s) and will send you the PowerPoint presentation. We understand the sensitivity of this topic, and we encourage you to engage in a discussion with your child(ren) about school safety, as you are their first teacher. As with other emergency drills, we know from experience that the more we discuss and practice our safety protocols, the more natural our responses will become. Preparation and knowledge of what steps to take when responding to an active shooter situation will result in students and staff responding decisively, calmly, and successfully.

Keeping our students safe on and off campus is a team effort, and we sincerely appreciate your support with this important safety topic. Should you have any questions, please contact your school principal.

Thank you,

Jack Plotkin, Ed.D.
Director of Innovation & Student Support Service