

Dear Alvord ISD Family:

Nothing is more important than the safety and security of our students and staff. Recent and past tragic events at schools across the country have caused great concern for all school districts. While we pray for the victims and their families at places like Sandy Hook and Parkland and hope that a horrific event would never happen here, hope alone is not a plan that will ensure safety.

Alvord ISD has implemented several safety and security measures in the past few years. We have and will continue to work to create the most secure environment possible. A 3 level guardian program has been developed and is in the process of being implemented. Level 1 Guardians will include all staff members. They will receive training on lockdown procedures, classroom preparation, and basic emergency medical skills. Level 2 Guardians will include staff members who have volunteered to receive training on the storage, handling, and use of pepper spray.

The Alvord ISD Board of Trustees modified local board policy to authorize certain staff members to possess firearms on district property at the April 26, 2018 School Board Meeting. An extensive screening process is in place to authorize a staff member to be a Level 3 Defender. These volunteers must hold a Texas Concealed Handgun License (CHL) or the new Texas License to Carry a Handgun(LTC), must be determined to be in satisfactory psychological and emotional health by a licensed psychologist, must be recommended by a District approved firearms expert, and must receive board approval. These individuals will complete an initial 3 day training that will include crisis and non-violent dispute resolution, emergency wound care, firearms safe storage and handling, firearms care and maintenance, and range training. They are also required to complete 8 hours of refresher training and recertification annually in addition to regular defender training.

Our goal is to create a more safe and secure environment. The Guardian program is not designed to take the place of local law enforcement. The Wise County Sheriff's Department and our School Resource Officer provide excellent service and do everything they can to keep our schools and community safe. However, in a situation when seconds county law enforcement can be minutes away. We must make every effort to defend the lives of those in our care until law enforcement arrives.

Sincerely,

Dr. Randy Brown
Alvord ISD Superintendent