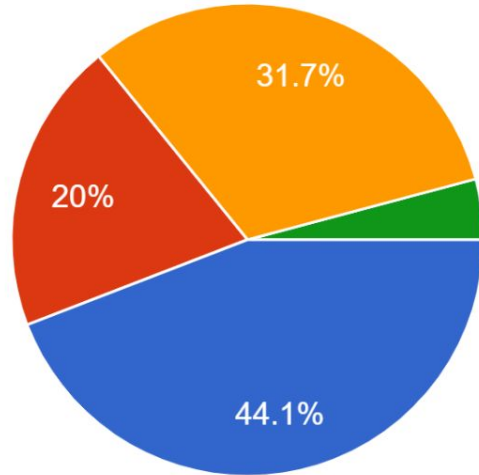


RI Principal Survey
SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE
STUDY COMMISSION



Which level represents your school best?

145 responses



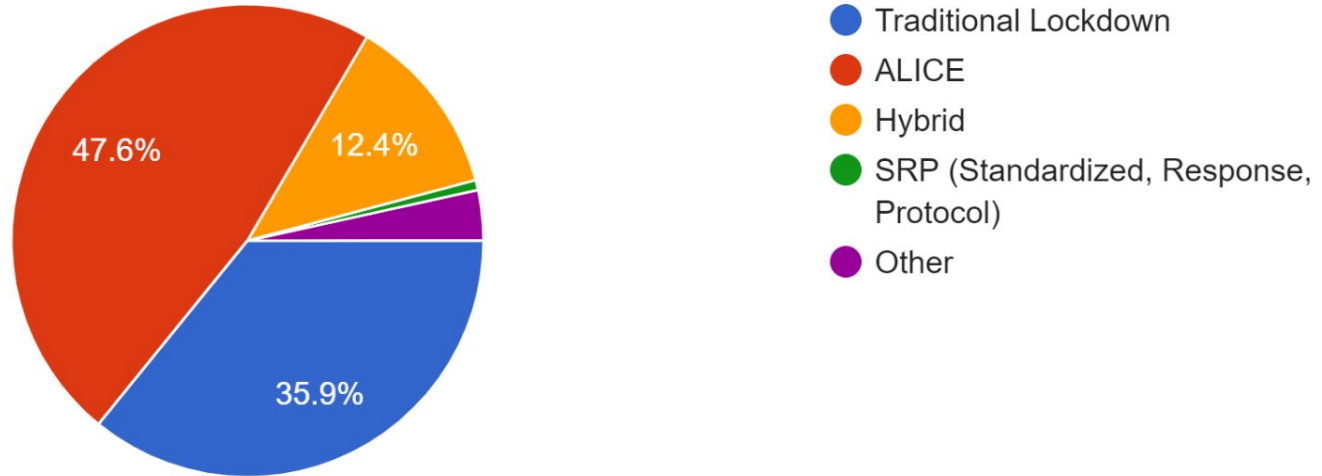
- Elementary School
- Middle School
- High School
- Other

What Did Principals Say?

- 15 drills is excessive and counterproductive. The number of fire drills should be significantly reduced. Alternatively, there could be a requirement for some drills to be supervised by fire prevention/police to receive feedback on the procedure.
- We need a better balance between fire drills, active threat drills, evacuation, etc.
- At the high school level, I don't find the number to be too many. We are allowed to vary and that helps our students practice from different classrooms different exit points and different strategies

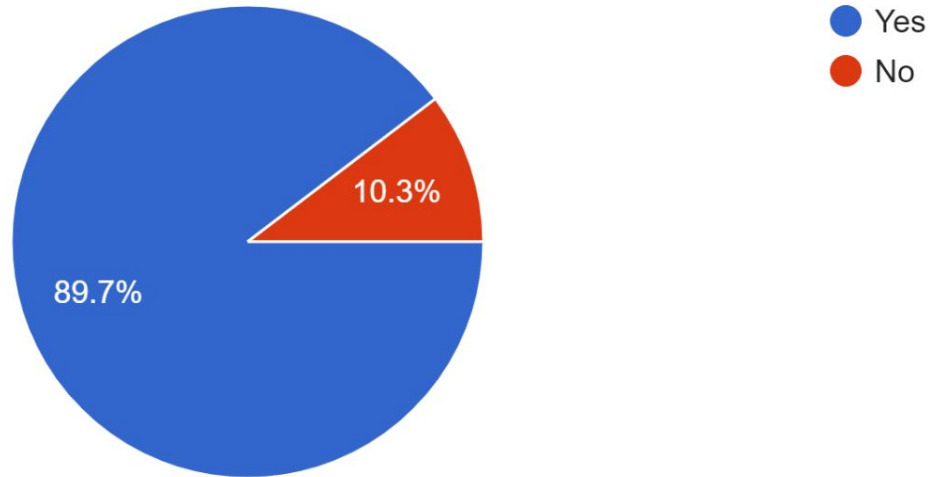
Which critical incident response protocol does your school use?

145 responses



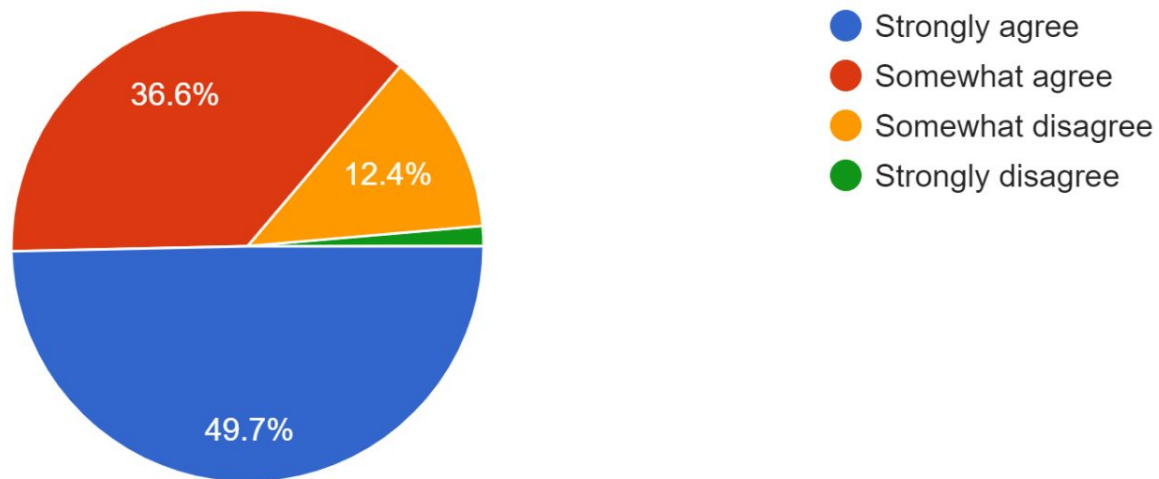
Are your emergency operation procedures standardized and consistent throughout your district?

145 responses



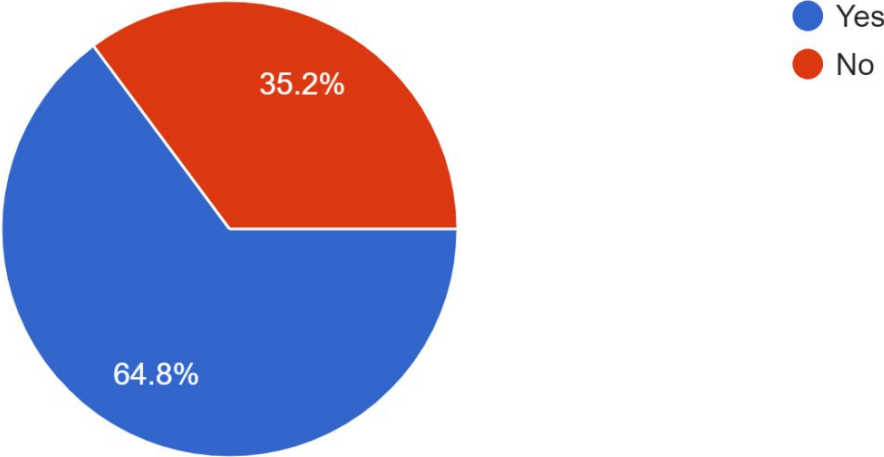
There should be a standardized protocol for all RI schools to follow to direct completion of emergency response drills.

145 responses



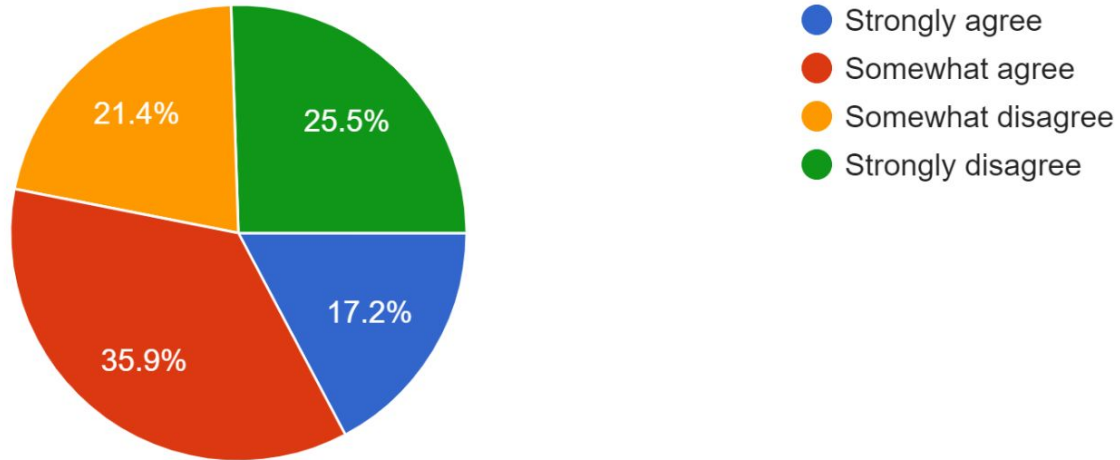
Should the number of drills dictated in RI state law be changed?

145 responses



Lockdown drills during school hours should include simulations that mimic an actual incident.

145 responses

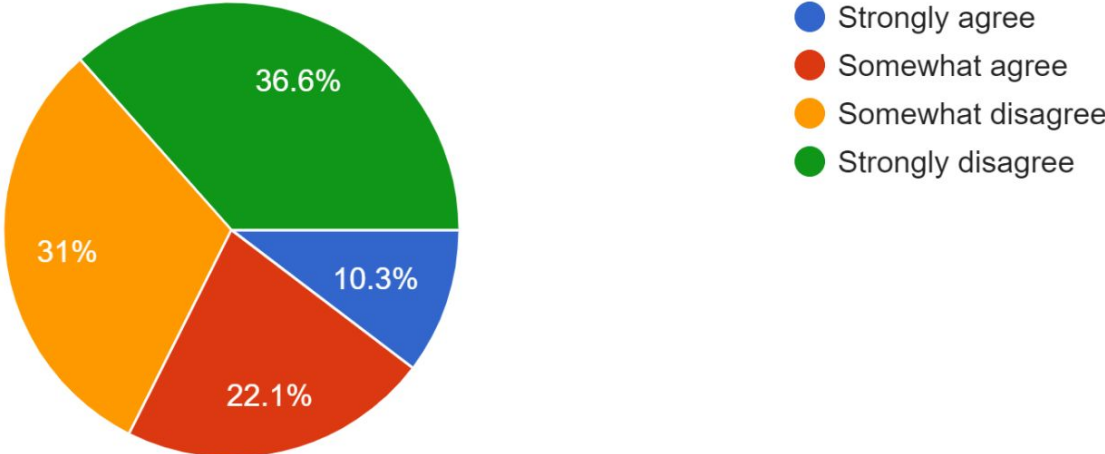


What Did Principals Say?

- There should never be a simulation of a violent incident. This is traumatizing to students and staff.
- This shouldn't apply/happen in elementary or early childhood schools. It's very traumatizing to our youngest students.
- We're wasting time if we aren't practicing for as close to a real life situation as possible.

Parents should have advance notice of lockdown drills.

145 responses

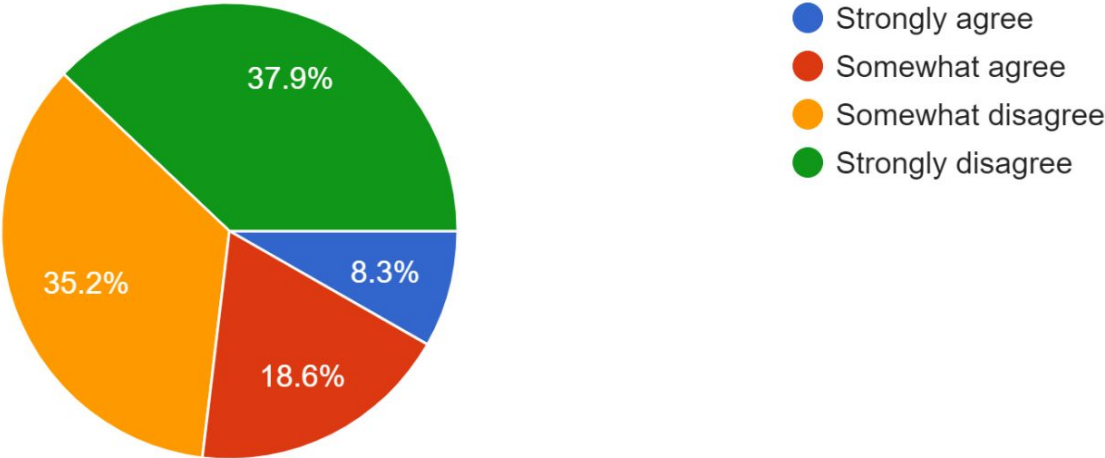


What Did Principals Say?

- Parents get very anxious and this may add to student anxiety.
- It can compromise the validity of the practice. A real emergency may not have advance notice. Parents should be aware of the procedure, but not the time and date of drills.
- Similar to fire drills, these practices are timed. Large-scale, advanced notice to faculty, staff, students, or parents can possibly negate the ability to find holes or problems in the response plan (and appropriately address them) if high numbers of students are absent or actively ready to respond when a drill happens.

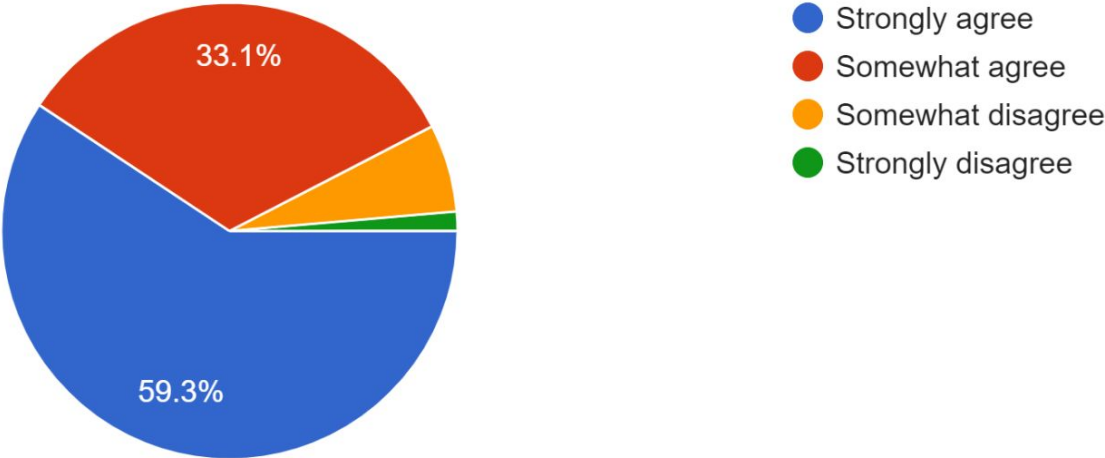
Parents and students should be made aware of lockdown drills prior to their start.

145 responses



Should schools create age and developmentally appropriate lockdown drill content with the involvement of school personnel, including school-based mental health professionals?

145 responses



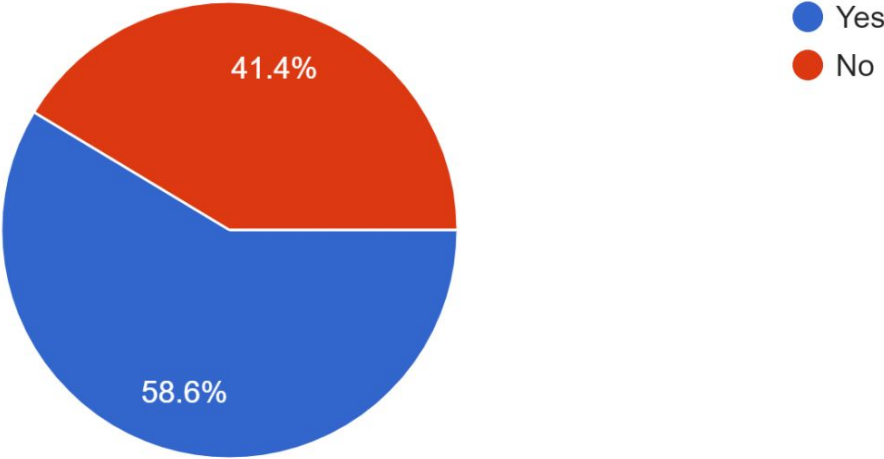
Should schools couple drills, as well as lock down events, with trauma-informed approaches to address students' wellbeing both during the drills, and over a sustained period and if so, how can that approach be implemented?

What Did Principals Say?

- Yes, we want students prepared not frightened to attend school.
- The best way to help students during or after a drill is to work with the teachers and have them explain to students in an age appropriate way what is happening and to discuss it after the event.
- SEL (Social and Emotional) lessons should coincide with drills so that children better understand the reasons behind drills and learn how to cope with any feelings/emotions accompanying the drills.

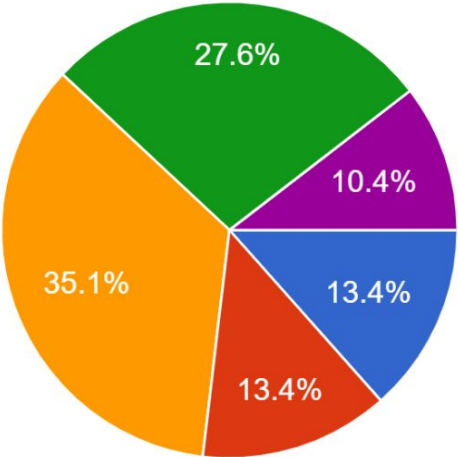
Does your school "debrief" after emergency drills in order to support any potential trauma trigger that may have affected staff and students?

145 responses



What is your greatest need as an administrator in charge of emergency operations in your school?

134 responses



- More training
- Help with communicating during/after an event
- Opportunities for trauma informed support for staff and students
- More information on emergency operation best practices
- Other

Anything Else?

What Did Principals Say?

- We need funding to create emergency kits for classroom to have during long lockdowns to address the social, emotional and physical needs of students.
- Thank you for advocated for more unified practices across the state.
- Mental health is extremely important for both students and educators. It needs to be supported throughout the state. More mental health professionals need to be in schools.
- Having support form local police departments in training staff and students would be a great help.
- Clear, consistent, and universal criteria are helpful in such matters as crisis response; input from EMA, police, and fire is critical