

that this is the final solution,” McKinley said. “I think it’s important that we learn about A.L.I.C.E. training, but [the students] shouldn’t end in [a] big group. In each individual classroom [we should] go over specific plans.”

Just like the administrators and creators of A.L.I.C.E., McKinley said she has felt unsafe hiding under desks and not taking action in the old lockdown plan. A.L.I.C.E. emphasizes empowering individuals to be active rather than passive, according to Rice.

“I feel like in the old lockdown system, [the teachers] were kind of going in and just lining us up,” McKinley said. “It felt weird that if [there was] a gunman in the room, I [was] going to sit under a desk.”

Unlike McKinley, who has been expecting a procedure like A.L.I.C.E., freshman Chase Morrow said he was surprised by the new plan.

“I was really surprised that we can react and take action against a gunman, and I was really shocked about that,” Morrow said. “If a person decides to take action, that person could probably get hurt or seriously injured. That is just one problem that I would point out [with A.L.I.C.E.]”

Rice said that the school is required by law to have two practice lockdown procedures a year. Under the implementation of A.L.I.C.E., the lockdown drills will be different than previous years where students used to practice the “duck-and-cover” procedure.

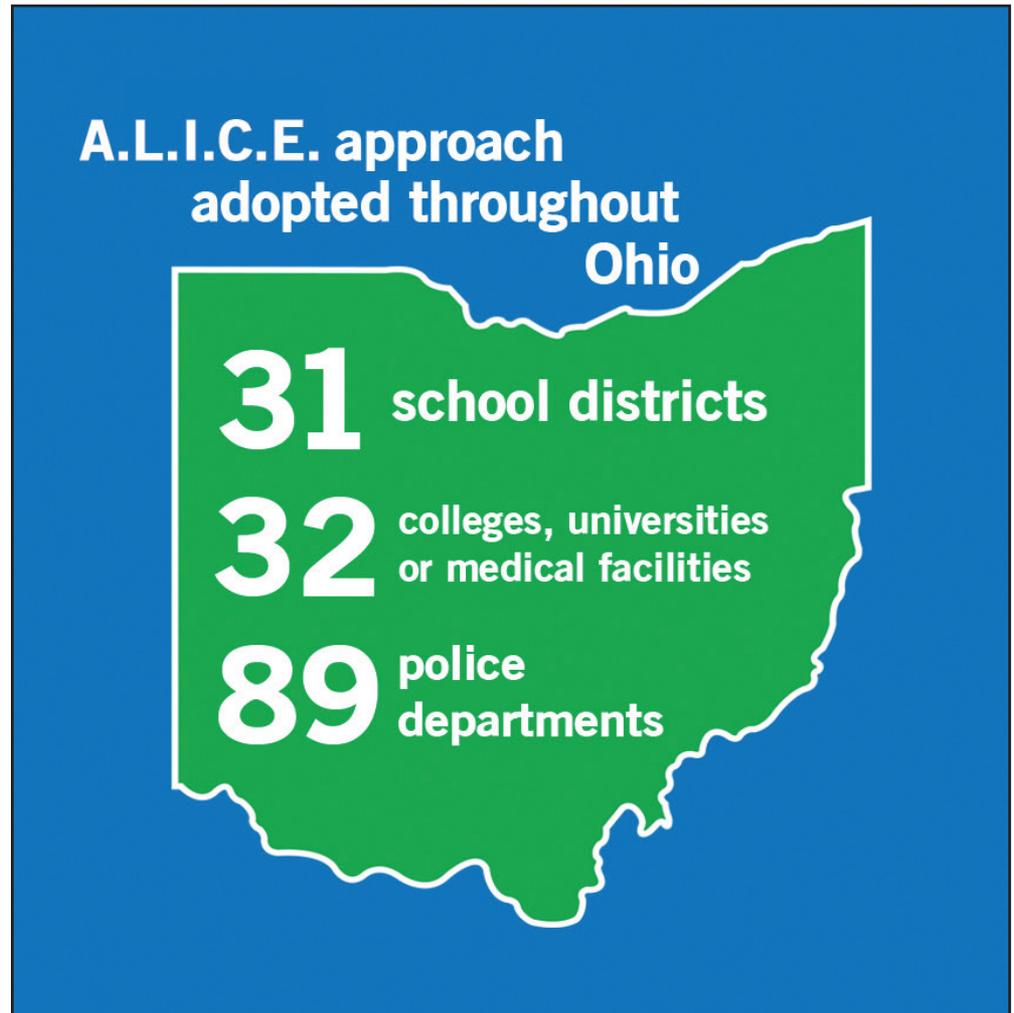
“My plan is to have teachers have real world conversations with kids and tell them, if [a dangerous situation] happened, what [we would] do,” Rice said. “We [will not] have a person come into the school and play the role of a bad guy.”

McKinley said that she thinks the discussion about what to do in situations will be beneficial, yet she said she doubts students will be able to take A.L.I.C.E. as seriously as it should be taken, considering many students have never been in a dangerous situation.

“I don’t really think that [students] will take [A.L.I.C.E.] seriously, just because it is something that we can’t really fathom,” McKinley said. “We usually use humor to cover up serious situations, and I think people will think it’s more of a funny thing than a serious thing.”

Rice said he is not worried about staff, parents or students responding negatively to A.L.I.C.E. Although it is a big change from the old plan, and it brings up very serious topics, he said most people view this plan as common sense and feel empowered by the ability to make their own choices.

“It’s an exciting time, because anytime you empower people to make decisions on their own or for their own safety, [it] is about survivability,” Rice said. “I’m not guaranteeing that just everyone is going to come out okay, but I am empowering you as a person who is faced [with] that situation, [with] what [you can] do to survive. The end game is survival.”



Virginia Tech Rooms Under Attack

