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# News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SCHOOL SAFETY DRILL WEEK SET FOR URBANA SCHOOLS**

Urbana – In cooperation with Urbana Police Department and other local safety agencies, Urbana School District #116 will hold “Intruder Alert” drills during the District’s designated School Safety week, April 13 through 17, 2015.

“In keeping with our commitment to keep our children and youth safe, we are devoting this week to review our current policies and practice routines and procedures,” said Deputy Superintendent Dr. Jennifer Ivory-Tatum. “Our goal is to comply with current school codes and laws but also to ensure that our staff and students are best prepared for any emergencies that arise”

During School Safety week, all USD #116 schools will be holding drills, per the School Safety Drill Act. Urbana Police and other local emergency management agencies will make unannounced visits to each of the USD #116 schools. This includes early childhood, all elementary schools, middle school, high school, and Adult education. “ We continue to work closely with our local law enforcement and community partners to best utilize their expertise and insight in keeping our schools safe,” explained Dr. Ivory-Tatum. Staff and students will practice the intruder alert drill with the focus on alerting, informing, lockdown, and evacuation. As with all safety drills, staff and students will be required to follow established safety procedures and evacuation plans just as they would in a real-life intruder alert scenario. As always, the safety and security of our students is our utmost importance and we appreciate the support of the Urbana Community during this time of review drill, and practice.

The purpose of the School Safety Drill (105 ILCS 128/) is:

“The School Safety Drill Act establishes minimum requirements for schools to follow when conducting school safety drills and reviewing school emergency and crisis response plans, all with the purpose of encouraging schools and first responders to work together for the safety of Illinois’ students.”

Specifically, the requirements of the act specify, “during each academic year, schools must conduct a law enforcement drill to address a school shooting incident. The appropriate local law enforcement agency should participate on-site in the drill.”

Urbana High School is celebrating their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary during the 2014-15 academic year. The Joseph Royer-designed building saw its first students in November of 1914. Urbana School District #116 is a unit district located in east central Illinois. Our outstanding schools in an outstanding community comprise of an early childhood school, six neighborhood elementary schools, a middle school, a high school, and an adult education center. To discover more about our award winning schools and students, please visit [www.usd116.org](http://www.usd116.org). You can find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/USD116](https://www.facebook.com/USD116) or follow us on Twitter: @Urbana116.

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*Outstanding schools in an outstanding community!*

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