





While it is our hope that students who have gone through the **H.E.R.O. Program** will never have to **use their skills**, we know in today's world that may not be the case.

The first **real-life test** of the **H.E.R.O. Program** came on Thursday March 15th, 2018 at 1:30 pm at Cathedral City Elementary School in Cathedral City, California.



While nearly **700 K-5 students** and **65 staff** were going about their school day, the unthinkable happened... teachers began reporting gunshots from a residential backyard that borders the school's playground.

At nearly the same time, a frantic delivery driver ran into the school's front office and reported **hearing gunshots** and said he saw a "bloody" person driving away from the area with people running in all directions, some towards the school.



Fearing for the safety of her students, the principal immediately issued a **Lockdown** order. Looking out her window, she knew all of the K-3 students were playing at recess, and the 4th and 5th grade students were eating lunch nearby.

To make matters worse, only K-3rd grade students had completed the **H.E.R.O. Program**, while a portion of the 4th graders had and **none** of the 5th graders.

"There was a night and day difference... students who had the lessons knew what to do and acted right away."

- Jessica W., Principal



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The following behaviors were observed of the students who had **completed** the **H.E.R.O. Program**:

- Immediate dispersal from common outdoor areas
- Immediate lockdown in classrooms
- Barricades erected in classrooms
- Students worked together as a team to find places to “HIDE!”
- Older students took leadership roles and helped younger students
- Students approached adults, verified the threat and responded accordingly
- An older student helped pass out items to “OVERCOME!” an intruder
- A rambunctious special education student found a hiding spot and remained silent for 45 minutes
- Students took the situation seriously and remained quiet and focused in their classrooms
- Students greeted law enforcement when the all-clear signal was given and thanked them for their help



The following behaviors were observed of the students who had **NOT completed** the **H.E.R.O. Program**:

- Students were loud and unruly
- Students did not act as a team and were hesitant to evacuate the outdoor lunch area
- Students were adversarial with staff members and didn't take the incident seriously
- Once locked inside a cafeteria, the students continued to be loud and nonchalant

The principal stated this particular school had only done a handful of “Lock-down Drills” prior to this incident, none of which were in recent memory. She **directly attributed** her students’ response to the **H.E.R.O. Program** and said this will be a program they’ll be using for years to come.