

ADMINISTRATORS

Get to know your students. Get in the hallways, be approachable, show them you care, be encouraging, be a role model, talk to them, give them praise, and most of all “be there”.

Support student safety initiatives. Be supportive of your school’s SAVE chapter and efforts to prevent violence in the school. Establish an anonymous reporting method for students to report inappropriate behavior and threats.

Provide training. Train staff on how to deal with bullies, gangs, and other violent behavior. Provide them the necessary tools to manage their classroom and surrounding areas safely. Encourage staff to teach conflict management and other skills in their classes.

Give your attention each day. Stay away from the thinking that it can’t/won’t happen here. Don’t wait for another Columbine to demand your attention—give your attention each day.

Control your emotions. Whenever you become angry with a student, staff member or parent, get in the habit of saying aloud (even if you are alone in the room) at least one good thing about that other person. Absolutism and stereotyping are harder to embrace if you force yourself to see even a tiny speck of goodness in other people.

Lead by example. Be sure that you and your staff follow the rules just like the students.

Be consistent. Be consistent with discipline across the board. Make sure that no form of violence is tolerated at school.

Set your expectations high. At the beginning of the school year, inform the entire student body, teachers, staff, and parents what the behavior expectations are for students. Ensure that students understand that there are severe consequences for violent acts- verbal, physical or otherwise.

Brainstorm. Invite a small group of teachers, students and parents to breakfast to discuss their thoughts on how your school can be safer.

Be prepared. Take time over the summer to review your safe schools plan and meet with your safe schools planning committee. Conduct a safe school site assessment with local law enforcement.



SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS

TEACHERS

Make a connection. Take time to get to know all of your students: quiet, withdrawn, rowdy, creative, gifted, unruly, shy, outgoing, and even the challenging. You might be the only one who makes a connection that day. Let them know you care.

Be prepared. Know your schools emergency procedures. Have classroom rosters and emergency kit ready at all times. Know where your students are going if they leave the classroom.

Lead by example. Be sure that you follow the rules just like the students. Exhibit positive character traits and nonviolence behavior at all times.

Be visible. Be in the hallways before school and during class changes. Know the culture and current happenings at your school. Be aware of student conflicts, gangs, and troublesome areas and be proactive to stop violence.

Encourage reporting. Encourage students to tell an adult about a conflict or potential threats. Inform them if there is an anonymous reporting procedure at your school. If there isn’t be instrumental in establishing one.

Be actively involved. Be an advisor to the SAVE chapter, teach a peer mediation course, volunteer to be a part of the safe schools planning committee.

Reward. Positively recognize students who are demonstrating strong character qualities and are helping to dispel potential violence at the school. Reward them with lots of positive attention when they behave with kindness, empathy, and love toward others.

Discuss it. Ask your students why they think a particular violent movie, song, or celebrity is “cool.” They may never have stopped to ask themselves “why?” Talk about what you see on television and in movies, about how the narrative choices and editing techniques send messages about hatred and violence.

Set ground rules. Do not tolerate any form of violence in the classroom. Lay down rules in the classroom which promote an inclusive environment and a diverse environment- and actually follow-through with them. Stop bad behavior before it escalates. Do not turn the other way when you see inappropriate behavior in the hallways or in the classroom.

Educate. Do what you do best – educate. Educate students on violence prevention and bullying strategies.



SCHOOL SAFETY TIPS