



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

A Dozen Things Students Can Do To Stop School Violence

The National Crime Prevention Council wants to help stop school violence with this starter list of ideas. Some require only individual action; some require concerted effort. Some address immediate issues. Others address the problems that cause violence. Consider this a launching pad – there is much more that can be done.

Always listen to your parents and follow school directions about safety.

1. Refuse to bring a weapon to school, refuse to carry a weapon for someone else, and refuse to keep silent about those who carry weapons.
2. Report any crime immediately to school authorities or police.
3. Report suspicious behavior or talk by other students to a teacher or counselor at your school. You may save someone's life.
4. Learn how to manage your own anger effectively. Find out ways to settle arguments by talking it out, working it out, or walking away rather than fighting.
5. Help others settle disputes peaceably. Start or join a peer mediation program, in which trained students help classmates find ways to settle arguments without fists or weapons.
6. Set up a teen court, in which youths serve as judge, prosecutor, jury, and defense counsel. Teen courts can hear cases, make findings, and impose sentences, or they may establish sentences in cases where teens plead guilty. Teens feel more involved in the process than in an adult-run juvenile justice system.
7. Become a peer counselor, working with classmates who need support and help with problems.
8. Mentor a younger student. As a role model and friend, you can make it easier for a younger person to adjust to school and ask for help.
9. Start a school crime watch. Consider including a student patrol that helps keep an eye on corridors, parking lots, and groups, and a way for students to report concerns anonymously.
10. Ask each student activity or club to adopt an anti-violence theme. The newspaper could run how-to stories on violence prevention; the art club could illustrate the costs of violence. Career clubs could investigate how violence affects their occupational goals. Sports teams could address ways to reduce violence that's not part of the game plan.
11. Welcome new students and help them feel at home in your school. Introduce them to other students. Get to know at least one student unfamiliar to you each week.
12. Start (or sign up for) a "peace pledge" campaign, in which students promise to settle disagreements without violence, to reject weapons, and to work toward a safe campus for all. Try for 100 percent participation in the campaign.

SUMMARY

- ❖ Refuse to bring a weapon to school
- ❖ Report any crime immediately
- ❖ Report suspicious behavior
- ❖ Learn to manage your anger
- ❖ Help others settle disputes peaceably
- ❖ Establish a teen court
- ❖ Help classmates who need support with their problems
- ❖ Act as a role model to younger students
- ❖ Start a school crime watch
- ❖ Adopt a schoolwide anti-violence campaign
- ❖ Welcome new students and make them feel comfortable
- ❖ Sign a "peace pledge" to settle disagreements without violence

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