



San Diego Unified School District

Fact Sheet

A Dozen Things Teachers 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.

1. Report to the principal as quickly as possible any threats, signs of or discussions of weapons, signs of gang activity, or other conditions that might invite or encourage violence. Report suspicious behavior and crimes committed against them as soon as possible to proper authorities.

2. Set norms for behavior in your classroom. Refuse to permit violence. Ask students to help set penalties and enforce the rules.

3. Invite parents to talk with you about their children's progress and any concerns they have. Send home notes celebrating children's achievements.

4. Learn how to recognize the warning signs that a child might be headed for violence and know how to tap school resources to get appropriate help.

5. Encourage and sponsor student-led anti-violence activities and programs ranging from peer education, teen courts, and mediation to mentoring and training.

6. Offer to serve on a team or committee to develop and implement a Safe School Plan, including how teachers and other school staff should respond in emergencies.

7. Enforce school policies that seek to reduce the risk of violence. Take responsibility for areas outside as well as inside your classroom.

8. Insist that students not resort to name-calling, teasing or bullying. Encourage them to demonstrate the respect they expect. Involve them in developing standards of acceptable behavior.

9. Teach with enthusiasm. Students engaged in work that is challenging, informative, and rewarding are less likely to get into trouble.

10. Learn and teach conflict resolution and anger management skills. Help your students practice applying them in everyday life. Discuss them in the context of what you teach.

11. Incorporate discussions on violence and its prevention into the subject matter you teach whenever possible.

12. Encourage students to report crimes or activities that appear suspicious or make them uncomfortable.

SUMMARY

- ❖ Report any potentially violent or suspicious behavior to the principal or proper authority immediately
- ❖ Refuse to permit any violence
- ❖ Invite parents to discuss their students' progress
- ❖ Learn how to recognize the warning signs of student violence
- ❖ Encourage and sponsor student-led anti-violence activities
- ❖ Serve on a team to develop a Safe School Plan instructing staff how to react in emergencies
- ❖ Take responsibility for areas inside and outside the classroom
- ❖ Encourage students to show respect
- ❖ Teach with enthusiasm
- ❖ Learn and teach conflict resolution and anger management skills
- ❖ Encourage discussions on preventing violence
- ❖ Encourage students to report crimes, potentially violent activities or uncomfortable situations immediately

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