



CSPV SCHOOL VIOLENCE FACT SHEET

FS-SV09B

1998

Recommendations for Safe School Plans

Campus Access and Control:

- Control Campus Access
- Define campus perimeters with appropriate landscaping and fencing
- Remove posters and student decorations from all window glass
- Establish uniform visitor screening procedures
- Post-appropriate directional signs on the campus
- Require picture identification cards for each student and staff member
- Carefully manage and monitor hall passes
- Clearly separate and segregate mixed vehicular and pedestrian functions

Administrative Leadership:

- Mandate crime reporting and tracking
- Place school safety on the educational agenda
- Include school safety in the mission statement
- Develop a comprehensive, system-wide safe school plan
- Disseminate a summary of laws pertaining to school disorder
- Establish a state of the art "Emergency Operation Communications Center"
- Develop a clear job description of duties and responsibilities for school peace officers
- Establish a crisis response plan
- Identify specifically assigned roles and responsibilities concerning security
- Work with administration to expand the network of alternative placement for troubled youth
- Establish a restitution and community service program at district schools
- Recognize the politics of safe schools
- Establish good management practices
- Conduct an annual review
- Promote crime prevention through environmental design
- Establish two-way communication between the front office and each classroom
- Identify and track repeat offenders
- Provide close supervision, remedial training and restitution for serious habitual offenders
- Carefully screen and select new employees
- Conduct periodic joint meetings of all school staff and faculty
- Utilize existing technologies that promote crime prevention

School Climate:

- Make the campus safe and welcoming, beginning early in the morning
- Develop a nuisance abatement plan
- Develop a graffiti abatement and community clean-up program
- Create a climate of ownership and school pride
- Establish a Parent Center on each campus
- Enhance multi-cultural understanding
- Establish a vibrant system of extracurricular programs

Student Behavior and Management:

- Review the student handbook
- Articulate a clearly defined locker policy
- Develop and enforce a school dress code
- Review discipline and weapon possession policies
- Place students and parents on notice
- Provide adequate adult supervision
- Limit opportunities for the transport and storing of contraband
- Automobile and parking policies should state that campus parking is a privilege, not a right
- Add "hard looks" and "stare downs" as actionable offenses to the student code of conduct
- Train students to take responsibility for their own safety Conduct emergency drills

Staff Training:

- Conduct annual school safety training programs
- Establish an active school peace officer training program
- Provide teacher training in behavior management
- Establish professional development programs for campus supervisors and student personnel workers
- Establish a physical restraint policy

Student Involvement:

- Create an active student component
- Implement a peer counseling and peer mediation program at every school site
- Incorporate life skills curricula
- Create a student advisory council
- Develop a student crime prevention program
- Consider teen court as an option

Building Community Partnerships:

- Identify community resources
- Enhance interagency cooperation by creating a partnership among youth serving professionals
- Seek intensive community support and involvement in making the journey to and from school safe
- Establish a close law enforcement partnership
- Closely supervise troublemakers across agencies
- Capitalize on the school's ability as an organizational vehicle to provide comprehensive student services
- Consistently enforce the information sharing agreements
- Consider placing a probation officer on campus for students on probation

The information for this fact sheet was excerpted from the following book chapter. *Violence in American Schools* was developed by CSPV through a grant from the W.T. Grant Foundation:

Stephens, R.D. (1998). Safe School Planning. In D.S. Elliott, B. Hamburg, & K.R. Williams (Editors), *Violence in American Schools: A New Perspective*, (pp.253-289). New York, NY: Cambridge University Press.

For more information on how to obtain a copy of this book, please contact Cambridge University Press, 110 Midland Avenue, Port Chester, NY 10573. Telephone: (800) 872-7423, E-mail: orders@cup.org, or URL: www.cup.org.