Better Discipline Codes for Safer Schools

A good school climate is safe and welcoming and demonstrates a fair and consistently enforced school discipline system. The climate of the school often reflects how campus rules are determined, expressed, understood, and enforced.

The rules that are implemented should serve an intended purpose. The number of rules is not as important as the intent and the need to implement a rule that addresses the concerns of the school community. Several elements of effective codes are as follows:

- Simple and clearly written
- Supports the educational mission of the district
- Consistent with local, state, and federal laws
- Identifies critical goals and standards
- Serves as a guideline for action
- Reflects good education practice
- Appropriate penalties given for discipline code violations
- Rules fairly and consistently applied to all students
- Problems are recognized and resolved promptly
- Distributed and discussed with students and staff
- School staff recognizes difference between school discipline incidents and legal criminal violations
- Parents acknowledge student behavioral expectations and school discipline procedures
- Practical, enforceable and economical
- Provides alternatives to referrals, suspension and expulsion
- Reviewed on regular basis with input from planning team and/or school community

Discipline encourages learning, responsibility and self-control. CSPV has created a fact sheet on discipline codes. In order to obtain the fact sheet, or if you need additional information on discipline, please contact the center at (303) 492-1032.

William Smith High School
A Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools Site

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) has been actively working with the selected Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools (SCSS) sites, this past spring and summer. These schools and districts have demonstrated a commitment to providing a healthy learning and working environment for students and staff. Beginning in this back-to-school newsletter, CSPV will highlight one or more of the SCSS schools and/or districts in order to share with other Colorado educators and practitioners the exciting efforts and unique situations of each of the school communities.

William Smith High School is an alternative high school which services approximately 250 students, grades 9-12, throughout the Aurora Public Schools District, Aurora, Colorado. William Smith H.S. is unique in that it is a school freely chosen by students and their families. It emphasizes a family atmosphere, smaller classes, accelerated opportunities, teen parenting program, intercession, varying schedule, open entry/open exit, validation of Colorado content standards, and validations only diploma. The mission of William Smith is “to provide a challenging and innovative academic program based on student performance. This program is developed to meet their current and future needs and prepare them to be successful in society.”

Located in an urban/suburban setting, William Smith teaches a diverse and multicultural student population. In addition to its work with CSPV, William Smith has also been chosen as a site to pilot the online curriculum, EdStructures, and to take part in a cooperative effort with the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center to allow experimental opportunities for students at the new Fitzsimmons site. If you wish to learn more about William Smith and the many programs and opportunities for its students, please contact the school at (303) 364-8715.

Back-To-School with
Colorado Attorney General, Ken Salazar and CSPV Director, Del Elliott

The Center for the Study and Prevention of Violence (CSPV) and the Colorado Attorney General’s Office are busy scheduling the remaining statewide forums to promote community awareness about Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools during the upcoming fall. The forums began in April with a 17-county swing through southeastern and southwestern Colorado.

Attorney General Ken Salazar and CSPV Director Del Elliott are meeting with students and school districts about what schools and communities can do to provide safe and nurturing school climates. They have also been talking to communities about the resources available through CSPV.

The following is a schedule of the tour should you wish to attend the town meeting in your area:

**September 6**
- 8:30-10:00 am — Lake County H.S. (Leadville)
- 10:30-11:30 am — Bueno Vista H.S.
- 3:00-4:30 pm — Heath Elementary (Lake City)

**September 7**
- 8:30-10:00 am — Creede H.S.
- 1:00-2:30 pm — Pagosa Springs H.S.
- 5:00-6:00 pm — Del Norte H.S.
- 7:00-8:30 pm — Center H.S.

**September 8**
- 8:30-10:00 am — Centennial H.S. (San Luis)
- 11:00 am-12:15 pm — Centauri H.S. (La Jara)
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Safe Communities ~ Safe Schools
Partners and Staff

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“Input from the community will factor greatly into decision-making around safe school issues, including school/district policies, codes of conduct, and changes to the physical, social and emotional climate of the school.”
William Stuart, Principal William Smith High School

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