

When crime, drugs and violence spill over from the streets into the schools, providing a safe learning environment becomes increasingly difficult. More students carry weapons. Gunfights replace fistfights.

Many students must travel through drug-dealer or gang turf. Violence becomes an acceptable way to settle conflicts. When this happens, children cannot learn and teachers cannot teach.

Creating a safe place where children can learn and grow depends on a partnership among students, parents, teachers, as well as other community institutions.

To help prevent school violence:

- ☐ Find out how crime threatens schools in your community.
- ☐ Take action to protect children.
- ☐ Promote nonviolent ways to manage conflict.

How do these ideas translate into action? Here are some practical suggestions for young people, parents, school staff & others in the community.

Students

- ☐ Settle arguments with words, not fists or weapons.
- ☐ Report crimes or suspicious activities to the police, school authorities, or parents.
- ☐ Take safe routes to and from school and know good places to seek help.
- ☐ Don't use alcohol or other drugs and stay away from places and people associated with them.
- ☐ Get involved in your school's anti-violence activities—have poster contests

against violence, hold anti-drug rallies, volunteer to counsel peers. If there are no programs, help start one.

Parents

- ☐ Sharpen your parenting skills. Work with your children to emphasize and build their positive strengths.
- ☐ Teach your children how to reduce their risk of being victims of crime.
- ☐ Know where your kids are, what they are doing, and whom they are with—at all times!
- ☐ Help your children learn nonviolent ways to handle frustration, anger & conflict.
- ☐ Become involved in your child's school activities—PTA, field trips, and helping out in class or lunchroom.
- ☐ Work with other parents in your neighborhood to start a *McGruff House* or other block parent program.

A *McGruff House* is a reliable source of help for children in emergency or frightening situations. Volunteers must meet specific standards, including a law-enforcement record check. Programs are established locally, as a partnership among law enforcement, schools, and community organizations. For information, call 801-486-8768.

School staff

- ☐ Evaluate your school's safety objectively. Set targets for improvement.
- ☐ Develop consistent disciplinary policies, good security procedures, and a response plan for emergencies.

☐ Train school personnel in conflict resolution, problem solving, crisis intervention, cultural sensitivity, classroom management and counseling skills.

☐ Work with students, parents, law enforcement, state governments, and community-based groups to develop wider-scope crime-prevention efforts, such as Drug-Free and Gun-Free School Zones.

Community partners

☐ Law enforcement can report on the type of crimes in the surrounding community and suggest ways to make schools safer.

☐ Law enforcement officers in many areas participate in school activities and talk with students about crime prevention, drug abuse and other problems.

☐ Community-based groups, church organizations, and other service groups can provide counseling, extended learning programs, before- and after-school activities, school watches, and other community crime-prevention programs.

☐ State and local governments can develop model school safety plans, and provide funding for schools to implement the programs.

☐ Local businesses can provide apprenticeship programs, participate in adopt-a-school programs, or serve as mentors to area students.

☐ Colleges and universities can offer conflict-management courses to teachers or assist school officials in developing violence-prevention curricula.

For more information

National School Safety Center
4165 Thousand Oaks Boulevard,
Suite 290
Westlake Village, CA 91362
805-373-9977

National Association of
Elementary School Principals
1615 Duke Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-3438
703-684-3345

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RadioShack has formed a special partnership with these leading organizations to provide you with answers for security that can help make your life safer.

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help make
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