



## CAREGIVERS' GUIDE TO SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY

Administrators, teachers, parents, students, policymakers, and community leaders all want to keep schools safe and secure. When these concerned, motivated partners team up to work on ways to improve school safety and security, great results can be achieved.

Research and experience shows us that a school's response to safety issues should be comprehensive and include a variety of options since the problems themselves are complex and sometimes deeply rooted. Both a school's physical environment and its social climate need to be considered. A comprehensive school safety plan will combine immediate solutions, long-term prevention planning, and prevention programs with a good hard look at the school facility, and may incorporate extra security technology and staff training. An effective school safety plan is based on accurate information on crime and violence.

Successful, safe, and effective schools are those with high levels of parent and caregiver involvement. Primary caregivers are vital to children's emotional well-being, academic progress, and safety. The more you involve yourself in your children's school life—by meeting their teachers, attending school functions such as parent-teacher conferences, PTA meetings, plays, concerts, sporting events, or volunteering at the school—the more aware of safety and security issues and solutions you will be.

Schools need your help in devising solutions to safety and security issues. Schools, parents, business leaders, social service agencies, law enforcement and juvenile justice agencies, community organizations, students, elected officials, and government agencies play an important part in school safety planning and success. Forming or strengthening partnerships with them is an important part of working for change.

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) has partnered with a number of companies and organizations to form the National Safety and Security Council and the "Be Safe and Sound" campaign, whose goal is to develop a replicable safety and security model that can be used in schools as well as elsewhere in the community. This booklet is the first piece in this campaign and is intended to help you work toward making your child's school safer and more secure.

As parents and/or primary caregivers, there are four things you can do to improve school safety:

1. *Listen* to your children's concerns—engage their problems and empower them to make their schools safer.
2. *Educate* yourself about school safety and security, both physical and programmatic—find out what's being done and what more can be done.
3. *Involve* yourself—work with school staff, other parents, and the community, including local businesses, to improve and strengthen school safety and security.
4. *Advocate for and effect change.*

## Listen to Your Children

Bullying, fist fights, and shoving are the most common safety and security issues kids face at school, while theft is the most prevalent type of school crime. Some problems, such as gang activity and drugs, while not common in most schools, can rapidly accelerate the presence of fear, violence, drug abuse, and criminal behavior. Ask your child what problems and concerns he or she has. Here is a breakdown of problems that some students face in some schools everyday:

- **Bullying** is a serious problem that is particularly common in middle schools. It can drive victims to avoid school and cause low self-esteem, slowed academic progress, and depression. Increasingly, victims of bullies are reacting violently to their situation by becoming violent toward their tormentors, other students, or harming themselves.
- **Sexual harassment** is unwelcome, uninvited, and unreciprocated behavior of a sexual nature that interferes with a student's life. It can include comments, advances, touching, gestures, taunting, and perpetrating rumors. Victims may be driven into low self-esteem, suffer academically, or avoid school altogether. Research shows that girls, youth of color, and gay youth are most likely to be targeted. Sexual harassment is illegal—it is a form of sex discrimination and is prohibited by a variety of federal and state laws.
- **Theft** accounts for the overwhelming majority of school crime—both from teachers as well as students. In 1999, thefts accounted for about 64 percent of all crime against students at school that year. [*Indicators of School Crime and Safety*, 2001] On average, each year there are 217,400 thefts from teachers at school. [*2000 Department of Education Annual Report on Safety*]
- **Guns and Other Weapons.** A 1999 survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control found that 4.9 percent of high school students reported having carried a gun at least once in the last 30 days. While devices such as metal detectors (where legal) are an option to keep guns out of school, one of the most effective methods of detecting weapons at school is tips from other students.
- **Gangs and Cliques.** The presence of gang activity or social cliques can have a huge negative impact on a school. These play a significant role in the widespread escalation of tensions and violence in schools. This problem is not limited to urban schools. Schools need to make it clear that gang and clique behavior will not be tolerated and apply consistent disciplinary measures.

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## Talking With Your Kids About Tough Issues

1. Start early—kids who have early conversations with their parents are more likely to continue turning to them as teens.
2. Initiate conversations with your child.
3. Listen to your child.
4. Address any fears.
5. Create an open environment, where kids feel free to express themselves.
6. Communicate your own values.
7. Be honest.
8. Be patient.
9. Use everyday opportunities to talk.
10. Talk about it again. And, again.

From *Talking with Kids About Tough Issues*,  
<http://www.talkingwithkids.org/violence.html>.

## Educate Yourself

Each school's situation will be unique—even from other schools in the same district. Effective solutions require that you have accurate, up-to-date information specifically about problems in your child's school and the community at large.

Every school has a "code of conduct" for students that details the school rules and punishments for breaking them. Request a copy from your child's school and read it. Be supportive of school disciplinary actions that are in accordance with the school's "code of conduct": it is vital for all that school discipline is properly and consistently enforced.

Find out what is already being done at your child's school. If you're like many parents and caregivers, the very idea of "school safety" is overwhelming and sometimes frightening. The Livingston, NJ, School PTA developed the following list to help parents focus on what can be done to improve school safety and security. (See additional checklist at the back of this booklet.)

- Is school safety a priority for your school and your community?
- Do parents have access to reports that include information about the number of violent crimes or other incidents that happen at school?
- Does your school have procedures for responding quickly to unsafe situations? What are they?
- Is your school addressing ways to prevent as well as respond to crisis?
- Are the school board, school principal, superintendent, teachers, staff, parents, students, and community involved in these efforts?
- Has someone been designated to coordinate activities to maintain a safe and secure environment?
- Are counselors and psychologists available to work with students who are troubled or disruptive?
- Do students in all grades participate in classes to help them develop conflict resolution and other life skills?
- Do school health service providers help or refer students who come to them with concerns about safety?
- Does the school emphasize promoting self-esteem and respect for others in all aspects of the school program?
- Are parents and students involved in activities of positive physical, social, and emotional health?
- Are teachers encouraged to set examples of positive physical, social, and emotional health?
- Does the school have fair, firm, consistent discipline policies?
- Are school facilities attractive and hazard-free?
- Is safety addressed in all aspects of the school program—the cafeteria, physical education, classrooms, school athletic events, etc.?
- Do school staff, parents, and community members collaborate on school safety issues?

## Involve Yourself

Become a proactive parent, not a reactive one. Get together with other parents to address any problems that your kids tell you exist. Discuss ways you can team up to ensure your children's safety: perhaps by patrolling the children's walking routes to and from school to create a "safe corridor" or by partnering with local nonprofit organizations or businesses to create a "safe haven"—a violence-, gun-, and drug-free recreation or social zone in the community.

There are many simple ways for you to get involved. For example,

- get involved with your child's school life—attend school functions, parent conferences, open houses, and PTA meetings—and network with other parents.
- work with your child's school to encourage family involvement, welcome all families, and involve caregivers in meaningful ways with their children's education.
- volunteer at the school—as a hallway or parking lot monitor, a teacher's aide, a chaperone on field trips or at school events, or providing clerical assistance.
- work with the school to introduce prevention programs such as a peer mediation program.
- participate in school- or community-based groups concerned with violence prevention—or form one.
- lead other concerned parents in participating in the school's safety planning or advisory committee.
- form a team for special cleanup projects like renovating old classrooms, repairing playground equipment, and removing graffiti.
- encourage your school to offer before- and after-school programs—work with the community and local businesses to achieve this.

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“Studies have shown that schools where parents are involved in decision making and advocacy have higher levels of student achievement and greater public support.”

National PTA, National Standards  
for Parent/Family Involvement  
—“School Decision Making and Advocacy”

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## Advocate for and Effect Change at School

### How the School System Works

Now that you have determined what some of the issues are and have educated yourself about effective prevention programs, you will need to enlist partners and come up with a plan to address the safety and security issues at your child's school. As you go about the business of gathering information and becoming more involved in the school's activities, you will, of course, be building relationships with the school staff. Learning about and trying to improve safety and security issues at school shouldn't be confrontational. You are likely to meet with the greatest success in advancing safe and secure schools if you work with school personnel, not against them. Remember, they're concerned about student safety, too! Enlist their help.

It's important that you understand how the school system works so that schools are given the chance to deal with your concerns. Most problems can be solved at the school level—after all, the principal and teachers are the people most familiar with and concerned about the school's environment. If you have concerns, or if there has been an incident involving your child, it is important to know the hierarchy that exists within the school system. Here are the steps you should take as you engage the school to work with you:

- First, approach your child's teacher, or make an appointment to speak with the principal or assistant principal.
- If this is not successful, express your concerns to the PTA and see what action they can bring about.
- If you are still not satisfied, contact the area superintendent's office.
- Next, take your concerns to the superintendent's office.
- As a last resort, contact a school board member. Nearly all problems can be resolved within the school administrative hierarchy. Rarely, today, are school leaders likely to ignore reasonable safety and security concerns.

Try to discuss problems with school personnel early, before they develop into more serious issues, and always with an open mind. Remember, there are two sides to any issue. Define your problem clearly, be informed about what the school is doing, and work with the school to develop a solution. Familiarize yourself with the school's procedures for resolving parent concerns. Communication, cooperation, and collaboration are the keys to effectively teaming with school officials to bring about change.

### Advocating for Change

Having safe and secure schools is important to the community as a whole, not just to parents and students. Businesses are connected to local, elected policymakers and can help advocate for change in schools. Beyond generating news about your program, the news media in your community can be active advocates for your program. Enlisting partners and advocating for change with elected officials revolve around the same activities. Advocacy is simply educating policymakers (such as school board members and state legislators) about your efforts through letters, meetings, or hearings.

This means that your group needs to convince policymakers and partners that your efforts

- deal with a program of concern to a large segment of the community.
- are effective.
- can get even better results with backing from businesses, media, and policymakers.
- will contribute to a valuable public image for them.

Whether communicating about your group's activities or seeking full partnerships, you'll need to do several things on a regular basis:

- Identify key staff members and partners who are working in support of the cause.
- Write to your partners and policymakers describing the issue, explaining your current impact on the problem and how they can help increase that impact.
- Talk with them, by appointment, about your program and your need for their support.
- Make sure they have representatives on VIP guest lists for special events and meetings your program hosts.
- Ask them to emcee one of your events.
- Remind them that while teenagers may be the cause of some crimes, they are also an enormous pool of untapped energy, talent, and enthusiasm.
- Don't just communicate with them when you have a problem, send them letters of support when they have done something that is in support of your goals.
- Organize other parents to communicate to the same legislator so that you are not a lone voice.
- Ask candidates to make this issue part of their platform.
- Keep a log of the calls and correspondence you have had with elected officials on this topic.
- Publicize when the legislation has done something good on the issue.

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"Ultimately, your best protection is a positive school climate. Institute universal measures that reinforce positive behavior school-wide. Be active in reaching out to students who appear alienated or lonely, and who may be at higher risk of violent behavior."

Tod Schneider,  
"Assess Your School's Safety Issues to Find  
Lasting Solutions" in *The Safety Zone*,  
Vol. 4, Issue 1, Spring 2002

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## A Primer on School Safety and Security

Research shows that school safety works best when there are school-wide policies and practices that systemically address the needs of students, school personnel, and the community, as well as the physical plant of the school. Schools that have implemented comprehensive violence prevention and response plans experience improved student performance, fewer student suspensions, a school climate more conducive to learning, better staff morale, and are safer places. [“Creating Safe Schools: A Comprehensive Approach” in *Juvenile Justice*, OJJDP, Vol. VIII, No. 1, p. 13]

Three primary issues affect school safety and security:

1. *School “climate”*—strategies for improving the social environment.
2. *School layout and organization*—the principles of crime prevention through environmental design.
3. *Physical security*—the need for locks, alarms, safety lighting, and more.

### Improving the School Climate

Some schools are more at risk for safety and security issues than others. There are high rates of victimization, violence, and bullying, and an inability to monitor and discipline children. A climate of fear means that teachers are forced to silently shift the focus of classes from learning to safety and controlling students. Students can’t learn well in an unsafe school. School-based risk factors (*Trends and Issues: School Safety and Violence Prevention*, Univ. of Oregon, College of Education) include

- poor design and use of school space,
- overcrowding,
- lack of caring but firm disciplinary procedures,
- insensitivity and poor accommodation to multicultural factors,
- student alienation,
- rejection of at-risk students by teachers and peers,
- anger and resentment at school routines and demands for conformity.

Safe schools are characterized by a positive school atmosphere; have high levels of student, staff, and parent participation; have students who are attached to their school; and have clear and high expectations for student performance and behavior. Students have self-respect, mutual respect for each other, and appreciate diversity. Safe schools have proactive, inclusive leadership—a principal and school board that respond effectively and promptly to concerns and welcome input from parents. All members of the school community are involved in planning, creating, and sustaining a school culture of safety and respect. Each student has a trusting relationship with at least one adult at school, part of a general school-wide program of “connectedness.”

The school your child attends is probably somewhere in between these two extremes. As you work with other parents and the school staff to ensure a safer school environment, consider as your goals the following fundamental qualities of a safe and responsible school, as identified by the U.S. Department of Education:

- The school has strong leadership, caring faculty, family and community involvement that includes law enforcement officials and representatives of community-based organizations, and student participation in the design of programs and policies.

- The physical environment of the school is safe, and school-wide policies are in place to promote and support responsible behaviors.
- Prevention and intervention programs are sustained, coordinated, and comprehensive.
- Interventions are based on careful assessment of student needs.
- Evidence-based approaches are used.
- Staff are provided with training and support to help them implement programs and approaches.

All schools should have some type of violence/crime prevention programming as part of the curriculum. For instance, students should be taught conflict resolution and anger management—how to settle disputes without violence. Even at the elementary level, prevention programs can also teach impulse control, appreciation of diversity, and mediation skills. Older students will benefit from the addition of life-skills training in problem-solving, social skills, building self-esteem, assertiveness, moral reasoning, coping skills, stress management, and dealing with crises and transitions. The federal government and most states make funds available for prevention activities—such as anti-gang programs and other focused prevention education, as well as more general recreational activities—under anti-crime and education legislation.

It is imperative that students themselves be actively involved in any program to improve school climate. The NCPC-ADT 2001 *Are We Safe?—Focus On Teens* survey reports that teens believe they can be effective in stopping violence. One-third say that they can act directly to stop or avoid violence by not fighting, by stopping others from becoming violent, or by speaking out against violence. A third say that demonstrating respect for others is a means of preventing violence. One in four cite being a positive role model for other teens. Young people want to be part of the solution.

The National Crime Prevention Council has developed a highly successful curriculum for middle school and high school student that your school might consider adopting as its prevention program. Teens, Crime, and the Community (TCC) was created in 1985, as a joint initiative of Street Law, Inc., not only to reduce alarmingly high rates of teen victimization but also to engage young people in their communities. The program teaches youth ways to protect themselves from crime and provides them opportunities to develop safer, more vital communities.

Another NCPC program that works to improve school safety and involves students in the planning and decision making is Youth Safety Corps. This program was developed in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Education and the Crime Prevention Coalition of America to improve education through safer schools. Through the development of youth/adult partnerships, Youth Safety Corps members learn specific leadership, communication, personal development, and project management skills as they undertake projects to bring about positive change in their schools.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

You should advocate that your school administrators apply Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to the school campus. CPTED facilitates and enhances school safety and security. Preventing crime and violence can extend further than student behavioral change to taking a good hard look at the physical nature of a school. NCPC offers training and technical assistance for CPTED that might be of interest to your school.

The principles of CPTED center on three areas: controlling access, improving natural surveillance, and increasing definition of school boundaries. These principles can easily and effectively be applied to schools. For example,

- controlling unauthorized access to buildings and grounds can include
  - having a single access point or entrance for visitors.
  - screening visitors and requiring them to wear ID tags.

- monitoring entry to the school from a single point.
- reducing the number of secondary entries around the perimeter and to buildings.
- improving natural surveillance of the school buildings and grounds can include
  - ensuring clear lines of sight by removing unnecessary obstacles, and trimming vegetation.
  - limiting hiding places, e.g., raising signs off the ground, lowering bushes.
  - improving lighting, limiting shadows, or installing convex mirrors in dark or secluded areas.
- enhancing school boundaries for better control can include
  - clearly defining the edges of school property with tree plantings or fences to enforce that the school is not a general public-access space.
  - individualizing areas of the school (e.g., arts department, science department) to promote boundaries or “ownership” and pride in the school as well as to aid identification of unauthorized individuals.
  - keeping up good maintenance—a clean, well cared-for school fosters school pride and orderliness.

## Physical Security: Locks, Alarms, and More

Prevention and life skills intervention programs and CPTED improvements are not enough to ensure a safe environment. Security—the reinforcement of the school facility using hardware components with the proper procedural elements—reduces the risk of crime and school violence by allowing the administration to control and monitor access to any area of the facility. Other practical guidelines reduce situations or environments that may encourage criminal or vandalous acts.

In facilities where there is a history of crime, physical security enhancements help to “target harden.” Target hardening might include such things as installing video cameras, metal detectors, or alarm systems or hiring security personnel to send the message that it will be harder to perpetrate a crime or violence at the school. Security technologies can increase detection and delay or slow a perpetrator’s progress, but establishing and enforcing consequences must accompany them if crime and violence are to be reduced. Employing security guards or stationing law enforcement personnel at the school are also options.

A recent research report from the National Institute of Justice entitled *The Appropriate and Effective Use of Security Technologies in U.S. Schools: A Guide For Schools and Law Enforcement Agencies* provides non-technical, non-vendor specific information on

- security products available,
- strengths, weaknesses, and expected effectiveness of these products in schools,
- costs of products—installation, operation, maintenance, manpower, and training expenses,
- requirements to specify in order to get a suitable product, and
- related legal issues.

The report covers video surveillance (cameras, video recording equipment), metal detectors (walk-through, hand-held scanners, x-ray baggage scanners), entry control technologies, and duress alarm devices.

## Enhancing School Security—Basic Steps Can Be Very Effective

- Be sure the school has a visitor's policy. Test it by walking in the building and verifying that you're asked to sign in or show proper identification
- Unmonitored doors should stay locked from the outside at all times to prevent unauthorized persons or items from entering the building unnoticed.
- Students entering and exiting the school property should be monitored.

## Check the Locks and Doors—The First Line of Defense

Good locks are the first line of defense. Volunteer to lead a team to ensure the physical security of your school.

- Check for high security locks or electronic access control units on all doors. Remember to check closets that have private information or hazardous materials, outside doors, and basements.
- Verify that any electronic access control unit in use has secure key bypass using patented control of duplication of keys. Any access control unit is only as good as its mechanical override devices.
- Make sure all doors are solid. Look for sheet steel on both sides of back and basement doors.
- Make sure doorframes and hinges are in good condition and strong enough that they cannot be pried open.
- Be certain all windows are secure.
- Verify that upon change of staff or administration, locks are changed or cylinders are rekeyed.
- Don't assume someone else has reported a door, window, or lock that is broken or not working properly. Report these problems immediately.

## Check the Lights

Your school should be protected with proper lighting.

- Verify the use of motion sensitive, as well as constant, outside lights.
- Illuminate dark places around the building—add lighting, cut back shrubs so light can penetrate, etc.

## Check the Common Trouble Spots

- Front office/reception area—The receptionist should be equipped with a panic button for emergencies, a camera with a monitor at another location, and a high security lock on the front door that can be controlled.
- Stairwells and out-of-the-way corridors—Talk to the school administration about improving poorly lighted corridors and stairways since these conditions often provide environments for violence to take place.
- Restrooms—Make sure restrooms are not a haven for illegal or improper activities. Be sure that deadlocks are not accessible from the inside of the restroom.

## Keep Sensitive Information Confidential

- Are identification badges, office keys, and codes protected in the same way credit cards would be protected? Is there a process in place for reporting missing or lost badges?
- Does the school have a formal document destruction policy that defines when documents should be destroyed and how? Be wary of offsite destruction services for the most sensitive documents.

## Conclusion

It's going to take the involvement of parents and caregivers to get the community to pay attention to the safety and security of children. Caregivers can give children a voice by speaking out for their needs. As the community begins to listen and change begins to take place, recognize and celebrate those who have helped make it possible—volunteers, other parents, partners, school administrators, and elected officials. After all, success means we're all one step closer to being safe and sound.

## Caregivers' Checklist

Note: Not all of these questions may pertain to your child's school.

### As you walk into your child's school, take a look around...

Are shrubs/plants below windows? Could an intruder hide behind them?  Yes  
 No

Are there any broken panes in the windows? The "broken window" theory refers to the phenomenon that if one window in a building is broken and left unrepaired, the rest soon suffer the same fate. The first broken window signals the fact that no one cares about the building and so breaking more windows won't matter and the window-breakers won't suffer any consequences.  Yes  
 No

Are any of the windows open? An open window provides easy access for an intruder. When a room is empty, the windows and doors should be locked. (An obvious exception is during warm months in a school without air conditioning).  Yes  
 No

Is the entrance door to the school locked? Locking the door limits access to unwanted intruders. If the door isn't locked, was there someone manning the door?  Yes  
 No

Are any other doors propped open or unlocked? When a room is empty, the windows and doors should be locked.  Yes  
 No

Is there only one clearly marked and designated entrance for visitors? Having only one entrance makes it easier to monitor access to the building.  Yes  
 No

Did someone greet you at the door? If so, who greeted you? And, how were you greeted? The greeting is your first indication of the culture of the school—is it warm and inviting?  Yes  
 No

Is the visitor's policy visible? Are there signs at all entry points listing regulations and trespass laws? Visitors need direction and trespassers need to know the consequences of their actions.  Yes  
 No

Are all students, staff, substitutes, and visitors identified through passes, badges, other forms of identification, or uniforms? Some sort of identification is necessary to let everyone know who belongs and who doesn't.  Yes  
 No

Do you see school staff in the hallways? Adult visibility is the number one contributor to school safety.  Yes  
 No

Are the entranceway and hallways well lighted? A well-lighted area provides a sense of safety and security in student/adult traffic areas because acts of vandalism and violence are less likely to occur in a well-lighted area.  Yes  
 No

Is the school clean? An obvious sign of disrepair is an indicator of deeper underlying problems.

- Yes
- No

Are the school buildings in good condition? Once again, it may be an indicator of deeper problems.

- Yes
- No

Do you see any signs of graffiti? Signs of graffiti may indicate a gang presence within the school.

- Yes
- No

Is the school environment welcoming and student friendly? How can you tell? Look for such things as student work displayed in public places, display cases decorated and redecorated throughout the school year.

- Yes
- No

At this point you might have questions about how to process/use this information: how many yeses or nos indicate a problem? Unfortunately, resolving school safety and security issues is not as easy as tallying up X number of yeses or X number of nos. This checklist was written with the intent of helping you identify potential problem areas at your child's school. It is to be utilized with the guide to help you enter a dialogue with your school administrators about the issue of school safety and security.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Action Planning Checklist for Parents

The following is a list of more in-depth questions to ask your school administrator to help you gauge the safety and security of your child's school.

### Faculty/Staff Procedures

- Does the school conduct open discussions with parents about safety and security issues?
- Are teachers encouraged to set examples of positive physical, social, and emotional health?
- Does the school have fair, firm, consistent discipline policies?
- Is all staff trained in school policy guidelines and procedures?
- Do parents have access to reports that include information about the number of violent or other unsafe incidents at the school?
- Are classes and hallways overcrowded?

### Prevention

Does my child's school...

- have appropriate research-based prevention programs and strategies in place to promote student safety, e.g., anger control, conflict resolution, peer mediation, mentoring programs, and character education?
- create a school climate that encourages tolerance and celebrates diversity?
- have drug, alcohol, and tobacco awareness programs?
- have weapons awareness and violence prevention programs?
- have a policy on Internet safety?

### Intervention

Does my child's school...

- have counselors and psychologists available to work with students who are troubled or disruptive?
- provide programs available for students who are academically at risk?
- have a referral process for students with behavioral and/or emotional issues?
- offer confidential help available for students who need it?
- produce a resource guide for parents and students listing such community resources as a youth services bureau, local hospitals, and health clinics?

## Preparedness

Does my child's school...

- have any emergency procedures in place?
- involve the school board, school principal, school superintendent, teachers, school staff, parents, students, and community professionals all involved in emergency preparation efforts?
- have a crisis response team in place?
- conduct crisis response simulations to test the effectiveness of its emergency procedures?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
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For more information about this campaign and for a detailed list of resources for more information on school safety and security issues, check out NCPC's web site at [www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org).

## NSSC Partners

### National Crime Prevention Council



[www.ncpc.org](http://www.ncpc.org)

The National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) is a private, nonprofit tax-exempt [501(c)(3)] organization whose primary mission is to enable people to create safer and more caring communities by addressing the causes of crime and violence and reducing the opportunities for crime to occur. NCPC publishes books, kits of camera-ready program materials, posters, and informational and policy reports on a variety of crime prevention and community-building subjects. NCPC offers training, technical assistance, and a national focus for crime prevention: it acts as secretariat for the Crime Prevention Coalition of America, more than 4,000 national, federal, local, and state organizations committed to preventing crime. It hosts a number of Web sites that offer prevention tips to individuals, describe prevention practices for community building, and help anchor prevention policy into laws and budgets. It also operates demonstration programs in schools, neighborhoods, and entire jurisdictions and takes a major leadership role in youth crime prevention and youth service. NCPC has information on effective school-based prevention programs; it also administers the Center for Faith and Service. NCPC manages the McGruff "Take A Bite Out Of Crime" public service advertising campaign. NCPC is funded through a variety of government agencies, corporate and private foundations, and donations from private individuals.

### The Allstate Foundation



[www.allstate.com/foundation](http://www.allstate.com/foundation)

The Allstate Foundation is an independent, charitable organization made possible by funding from the Allstate Corporation. The foundation funds programs in three focus areas: safe and vital communities; tolerance, inclusion, and diversity; and economic empowerment. In 2001, the foundation contributed \$7.1 million to communities across America.

### ASSA ABLOY Group



[www.assaabloy.com](http://www.assaabloy.com)

ASSA ABLOY is the world's leading manufacturer and supplier of locks and is dedicated to understanding its customers' current and future security and safety needs. Based in Sweden, the ASSA ABLOY Group comprises 100 companies in 40 countries and holds market-leading positions in Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, Canada, and Mexico and is the second largest player in the U.S. market.

### Education Networks of America



<http://www.ena.com/default.htm>

ENA is a leading managed service provider delivering a content integration and delivery platform to help organizations that struggle with diverse, distributed, and disparate environments leverage their existing network investments to rapidly deploy, deliver, and manage critical information in real time. ENA builds and supports unique technology solutions for state governments, K-12 school systems, and system integrators across statewide and local networks. Its solutions increase access to online information, facilitate collaboration, increase productivity, and lower the costs of information management.

### Security Industry Association



[www.siaonline.org](http://www.siaonline.org)

Formed in 1969, SIA provides its members with a full-service, international trade association promoting the growth, expansion, and professionalism of the security industry through providing education, research, technical standards, representation, and defense of members' interests. SIA has over 300 member companies, including manufacturers, distributors, service providers, and others.