

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

## United Against Crime

This crime prevention brochure is brought to you by RadioShack, working together with the National Crime Prevention Council (which manages the National Citizens' Crime Prevention Campaign) and the National Sheriffs' Association.

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  
my  
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If security is the question, we've got the answer.



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