



SCHOOL SAFETY: What Can the Community Do?

Safe schools exist in safe communities. We exist in a society that tacitly condones bullying behaviors. Statistics indicate that most of the time, no one intervenes when a student is bullied.

Bureau of Justice Statistics still show that:

- 43% fear harassment in the bathroom at school.
- 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month.
- 1 out of 5 teens knows someone who brings a gun to school.
- Playground statistic – Every 7 minutes a child is bullied.
Adult intervention – 4%, Peer intervention – 11%, No intervention – 85%

Top 10 Kentucky Center for School Safety Recommendations for Community Members:

1. Refuse to participate in or tolerate bullying or violent talk wherever you are. Make it known that you do not appreciate or condone this type of behavior.
2. Report suspicious or worrisome behavior or talk by anyone to a teacher or counselor at the appropriate school. You may save someone's life.
3. Learn how to manage your own anger effectively. Find out ways to settle arguments by talking it out, working it out, or walking away rather than fighting.
4. Be clear about rules in your workplace; explain what you expect and what consequences are for not following rules BEFORE they are enforced.
5. Do not have violent or sexually explicit television shows, movies, or radio stations playing in your place of business. Many R rated movies are played in electronics stores, exposing children (and adults) to violence as background to a “fun” activity like shopping.
6. If you run a business or organization, find ways to partner with your school that benefits both your organization and the students. Judge a science fair, provide coupons as incentives for students, provide mentors or tutors for students.
7. Start or get involved in a Workplace Respect program where diversity and communication are valued parts of a workplace environment.
8. Demonstrate values of respect, honesty and pride in your community and heritage with your advertisements and promotions.
9. Model respect and concern for others and service to your community by volunteering in a variety of activities: mentor a child, tutor a student, plant flowers in your community park. Helping others helps you by giving you a better place to live and focusing outside your own needs and wants.
10. Join the KCSS “Safe Schools Begin with Me!” Pledge Against School Violence campaign, which brings awareness to the entire community that safe schools exist in safe communities.

To learn more about how you can help Kentucky schools be safer places in which to learn and work, contact the Kentucky Center for School Safety toll free or visit our website today.



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