



## ***SCHOOL SAFETY: What can educators do?***

*Recent research proves that schools are safer than they were just a few years ago, despite mass media reporting of horrific events. We know teachers, administrators and parents work hard to make Kentucky schools safe, but there is still much more we can do...*

But Bureau of Justice Statistics still show that:

- 1 out of 4 kids is bullied.
- 1 out of 5 kids admits to being a bully, or doing some “bullying.”
- 43% fear harassment in the bathroom at school.
- 100,000 students carry a gun to school.
- 282,000 students are physically attacked in secondary schools each month.
- 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 educators:**

1. Establish a caring relationship with each student. Be consistent about rules and discipline both in your classroom and school-wide. Involve students in setting rules/consequences whenever possible. Teach what you expect and what the consequences will be for not following rules **BEFORE** they are enforced. Make sure your students are always supervised by those familiar with your discipline codes.
2. Create an engaging, student-centered classroom where learning is more important than teaching. Lose the “big desk” mentality that creates a negative environment for learning.
3. Use a positive approach to changing behavior by emphasizing good behavior rather than punishing bad behavior. Praise and affection can be the best rewards. Too many rewards, however, discourage development of internal values systems. Deal with misbehavior quietly, and in private.
4. Become involved with, or start, a peer mediation program at your school. The statistics above indicate that we too often ignore or just don’t see bullying and other harassing behaviors. We must change this.
5. Encourage cooperative play instead of winner-loser games, and urge children to help, rather than taunt, those with less ability in any specific area.
6. Observe closely how your students get along with others. Teach them how to respond appropriately when others use insults or threats to deal with anger. Explain these are not appropriate behaviors, and teach them how to deal nonviolently with children who do behave that way.
7. Expand your own and your students’ horizons, and reinforce core content, by incorporating service-learning and social justice programs into your classroom. Find ways to make learning authentic.
8. Demonstrate values of respect, honesty and pride in your family and heritage with your actions, and use curricula that teach about and encourage these values in your students. These are important sources of strength for children, especially when they are confronted with negative peer pressure.
9. Model involvement and service to your community to your students by volunteering in a variety of activities as individuals and as a faculty.
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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