

A Dozen Things Teachers Can Do To Stop School Violence

- ▶ Report to the principal as quickly as possible any threats, signs of or discussions of weapons, signs of gang activity, or other conditions that might invite or encourage violence.
- ▶ Set norms for behavior in your classroom. Refuse to permit violence. Ask students to help set penalties and enforce the rules.
- ▶ Invite parents to talk with you about their children's progress and any concerns they have. Send home notes celebrating children's achievements.
- ▶ Learn how to recognize the warning signs that a child might be headed for violence and know how to tap school resources to get appropriate help.
- ▶ Encourage and sponsor student-led anti-violence activities and programs ranging from peer education, teen courts, and mediation to mentoring and training.
- ▶ Offer to serve on a team or committee to develop and implement a Safe School Plan, including how teachers and other school staff should respond in emergencies.
- ▶ Enforce school policies that seek to reduce the risk of violence. Take responsibility for areas outside as well as inside your classroom.
- ▶ Insist that students not resort to name-calling or teasing. Encourage them to demonstrate the respect they expect. Involve them in developing standards of acceptable behavior.
- ▶ Teach with enthusiasm. Students engaged in work that is challenging, informative, and rewarding are less likely to get into trouble.
- ▶ Learn and teach conflict resolution and anger management skills. Help your students practice applying them in everyday life. Discuss them in the context of what you teach.
- ▶ Incorporate discussions on violence and its prevention into the subject matter you teach whenever possible.
- ▶ Encourage students to report crimes or activities that make them suspicious.



National Crime Prevention Council
1000 Connecticut Avenue, NW, 13th Floor
Washington, DC 20036
www.ncpc.org