

MICHIGAN *Safe Schools* INITIATIVE

The Education Alliance

- Michigan Association of School Boards
- Michigan Education Association
- Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators
- Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals
- Michigan Parent Teacher Association
- Michigan Elementary and Middle School Principals Association
- Michigan School Business Officials
- Michigan Federation of Teachers and School Related Personnel
- Michigan Association of School Administrators
- Middle Cities Education Association
- Michigan Business Leaders for Education Excellence
- Michigan State University College of Education

Auburn Hills Police Department

Big Rapids School District

City of Sterling Heights

Crime Victim Services, Michigan Department of Community Health

Hazel Park Schools

Incident Management Team

Inkster Public Schools

Jackson Community College

Joseph A. Young & Associates

Lansing Schools District Department of Public Safety

Lansing Police Department

Marshall Public Schools

Mason Public Schools

Metropolitan Association of Improved School Legislation

Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police

Michigan Association of Public School Academies

Michigan Center for the Prevention of Violence in Schools, Ferris State University

Michigan Department of Education

Michigan Department of State Police Prevention Services

Michigan Department of State Police Emergency Management Division

Michigan Family Independence Agency

Michigan Municipal League

Michigan Regional Community Policing Institute

Michigan Sheriff's Association

Michigan Township Association

Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice

Middle Cities Risk Management Trust

National Center of Community Policing

Neighborhood Associations of Michigan

Office of Drug Control Policy - Michigan

Department of Community Health

Prosecuting Attorney Coordinating Council

School Employer Trust/School Employers Group

State 4-H Youth Program

Sterling Heights Emergency Services

U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms

U.S. Secret Service

Walter French Academy

Western Michigan Risk Management Trust

Fast Facts....

School Violence and the Bully Factor . . .

While the predominate response this summer has been to upgrade security systems (i.e. video surveillance, metal detectors) some communities have been taking a closer look at the role that bullying might have played in these violent situations.

One of the main motivation threads shared by the school shooters, over the last three years, is that almost everyone of them had been the victim of persistent, intense bullying that was not addressed by the school system.

While most victims of ongoing bullying suffer silently in terror those that get pushed to the extremes either commit suicide, murder or both.

The push is on for these children (NOT the Bullies) to be profiled. Profiling is similar to bullying in that it picks out the kids who are already being picked on, subjecting them to even greater unwanted attention.

Already the victims of ongoing violence, they are being declared to be the problem. Being different was difficult enough, being labeled dangerous has multiplied their grief and revictimized them.

Steps in addressing the Bully Factor:

- Ask and listen to the students. They are the best source of information as to what is really going on in the schools. Be sure to involve them in every aspect of dealing with this issue!
- Get informed. Educate the staff members on the nature and seriousness of bullying on a students physical, emotional, social, and academic well-being.
- Develop a clear formal policy regarding bullying. This will provide everyone with a clear understanding of where the school stands and help create a common approach.
- Adopt and implement a school-wide bully-proofing program. Develop skills and strategies for the intervention. Schools that have done this in a comprehensive manner have seen the most significant changes.
- Specify a plan for regular evaluation of the program. Being able to document decreases in violence incidences, thefts, vandalism, etc. will provide progress and may help limit exposure to litigation.

Reference: Olweus, D. (1991). Bully/Victim problems among school children: Basic facts and effects of a school based intervention program. In D. Pepler & K. Rubin (Eds.). The development and treatment of childhood aggression. Hillsdale, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

Resources: Bully-proofing Your School, published and distributed by Sopris West, 1140 Boston Ave., Longmont, CO 80501
(303) 651-2829 <http://www.sopriswest.com>

*[For further information on bullying and other school safety related issues visit the Office of Safe Schools web page
www.mde.state.mi.us/school/safety.shtml]*

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