

Important School Safety Tips

During the 2006-2007 school year several school-related violent incidents have occurred in various locations in the nation, one in North Carolina. Given these recent incidents, the North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention - Center for the Prevention of School Violence (DJJDP - Center) would like to emphasize the following tips in relation to school safety/security:

1) Review Access Control

- Entrance ways should be monitored regularly and doors/windows should be locked when possible
- School personnel should review and be knowledgeable about all access control policies

2) Know Your Staff, Students, and Parents

- Be able to identify all people on campus
- Make sure there is a way for strangers who are present to be reported to proper school or law enforcement authorities

3) Utilize Visitor ID Cards

- Visitors need to check in at the main office and show proper identification
- Badges should be dispersed and worn by all visitors

4) Organize & Maintain a Crisis Team

- Train team members on key aspects of crisis management
- Crisis plans need to be current and readily accessible

5) Train All School Personnel

- Make sure all staff, including support and part-time staff, are trained on emergency preparedness
- Perform school safety drills with emergency management personnel present (police, fire, EMS)

6) Evaluate Effectiveness of Crisis Plans

- Determine if the crisis plan was carried out as intended
- Identify safety gaps and modify plans as needed

7) Involve Students

- Provide a forum for students to share any concerns they have about school safety
- Encourage students to report any suspicious activity/people to an adult

8) Communicate with Parents

- Encourage parents to become more involved in safe school planning efforts
- Inform parents of school safety procedures through mailings, newsletters, and telephone calls

9) Recognize Early Prevention Works

- School administrators should be prepared for emergency situations
- Work towards stopping crises before they happen

10) Utilize Security Equipment

- Monitor school grounds through the provided technology
- Video equipment and cameras should be maintained and checked for any malfunctions

For more information on improving school safety, see the DJJDP - Center website:
www.cpsv.org or call toll free 1-800-299-6054.