

SAFETY MATTERS



SCSRM
Southern California Schools
Risk Management



Tailgate Safety Talks for School Employees

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Safer Schools – It's a Team Effort

With outside influences on crime, drugs, and violence increasing, maintaining a safe learning environment can become difficult. It requires a team effort to address the issue of violence; students, parents, teachers, and other community personnel can work together to prevent school violence.

Students:

- Settle conflict with words, not violence of any kind. Help start a conflict mediation program if your school doesn't have one.
- Don't carry weapons to school. If you see another student with a gun, knife, or weapon, report immediately.
- Report crimes or suspicious activity to police, school authorities, or parents.
- If you're concerned about a bully or threats from another student, tell a teacher or trusted adult.
- Learn safe routes for traveling to and from school.
- Get involved in anti-violence activities.

Parents:

- Encourage other parents to spend time together to educate others about drugs and threats in the community.
- Teach children how to reduce their risk of becoming a victim of crime.
- Know where your children are- what they are doing, who they are with at all times. Set clear rules about acceptable activities.
- Ask your child what occurs during the school day. Listen and take their concerns seriously.

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- Help your child learn non-violent ways to confront frustration, anger, and conflict.
- Refuse to allow minors to carry guns, knives, or other weapons.
- Stay involved with school activities such as PTA, field trips, or volunteering.

School Staff:

- You must be involved in any effort to create a safer school.
- Evaluate school safety by being honest and setting goals for improvement.
- Develop consistent disciplinary policies, security procedures, and emergency response plans.
- Train staff in conflict resolution, drug prevention, crisis intervention, and counseling skills.
- Discuss consequences of violence, crime, and drug use; offer other choices that may be available.

Community Partners:

- Report on the type of crimes in the surrounding community to keep students and staff alert and safe.
- Organized groups can patrol common routes that students take to and from school.
- Community groups and church organizations can provide counseling services, before and after school activities, and other crime prevention programs.
- Seek out funding opportunities to develop a model school safety plan.

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