

SCHOOL SAFETY: FOCUS ON VIOLENCE PREVENTION (Prevention Strategies)

The South Shore School District will provide all students, staff, and community members a safe, secure and nurturing school environment. School officials will focus on the prevention of school violence through demonstrated respect for all individuals and cultures and support and recognition for positive behavior. Firm guidelines for acceptable behavior will also be followed.

Specific approaches to preventing and reducing school violence, including conflict resolution, peer mediation, and character education will be effectively integrated with teaching and student learning. Efforts to "connect" students with school and community life and with positive "key" influences will be made. Instructional approaches will encourage collective and individual achievement and promote the daily application of positive values and conflict resolution skills to manage naturally occurring controversies.

Efforts will be made so that schools become "communities" in which teachers and students get to know one another and develop respect and concern for one another as individuals. Educational staff will strive to deliver student-centered curricula to help reduce student alienation.

Increased communication between schools, families, community organizations, and social service agencies will help form a solid foundation for both prevention and intervention in matters of school violence. Through consistent efforts to be informed and keep others informed, schools can help prevent violence and become communities of cooperation, safety, and achievement.

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