

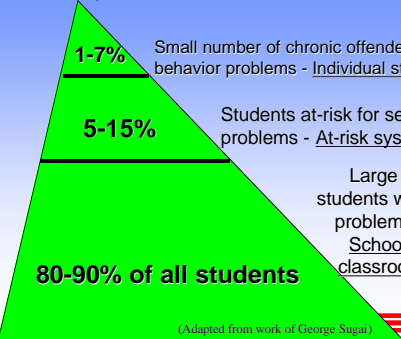
What Works in School Violence Prevention?

Reece L. Peterson & Courtney Miller
 University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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Session Description

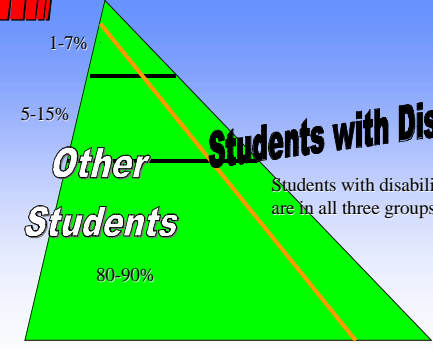
- A brief overview of the project- "Safe and Responsive Schools"
- Content structure - Three categories
 - Prevention;
 - Early identification and intervention; and
 - Dealing with serious behavior problems when they occur
- The Process
 - Committee or Team
 - Gathering and Using Data
 - Planning and Problem Solving

Thinking About Students



- 1-7% Small number of chronic offenders with serious behavior problems - Individual student systems
- 5-15% Students at-risk for serious behavior problems - At-risk systems
- 80-90% of all students Large number of students without serious problem behaviors - School wide and classroom systems

(Adapted from work of George Sugai)



- 1-7% **Students with Disabilities**
- 5-15% **Other**
- 80-90% **Students**

Students with disabilities are in all three groups.

Three Components-

- Creating a Safe and Responsive Climate
- Early Identification and Intervention
- Effective Responses to Inappropriate Behavior

The Content-

What can schools do to use this structure to implement strategies at each level?


1. Creating a Safe & Responsive Climate
 Provide foundations for good behavior for all students

1. Programs to Improve School & Classroom Climate

- Empathy ,
- Structure and Teaching Discipline
- Motivation, Expectations for Students
- Membership, Belonging, Caring
- Relationships, & Community input
- Good lesson design & delivery
- Anticipation and planning
- Cooperative learning programs
- Improving teacher morale
- Classroom meetings
- Leadership in School Culture



2. Smaller Groupings/ More Connections



- Block Scheduling
- Multiage groups
- School within school programs
- Home base programs
- Louping
- Reducing School Size

3. Increased Parent Involvement

- Make a school-wide commitment
- Use a strength, not a deficit-based approach
- Be responsive to family and community needs
- Access, voice & ownership




4. Improved Classroom Management & School Discipline

Key Elements of Effective Classroom Management


- A. Prevention
- B. Manage transitions
- C. Increase positive reinforcement
- D. Behavior Planning
- E. Support/Coord. by School & Administration
- F. Develop consequences which are effective

5. Character Education/ School Values

- Character Counts – 6 pillars
- 40 Developmental Assets Program
- Purple Hand Program
- School Value Statements



6. Social Skills Instruction/ Violence Prevention Programs



- Resolving Conflict Creatively Program- The Peaceable School
- The Peacemakers Program
- Specific Social Skills Instruction
- Others

7. Conflict De-Escalation and Conflict Resolution

Responses to Conflict



CONFRONT

Violently

- Use physical violence
- Use psychological violence
- Use verbal violence
- Threaten

Nonviolently

- Talk/Discuss feelings
- Hear other's views
- Agree to disagree
- Problem solving


AVOID

- Mask
- Ignore

DIFFUSE

- Postpone
- Wait

8. Service Learning Programs



- Components
 - Active participation
 - Thoughtfully organized experiences
 - Focus on community needs
 - Academic curriculum integration
 - Application of skills and knowledge
 - Sense of caring for others
- Works at All Levels
- Results in Multiple Potentially Positive Outcomes for Students, School and Community

9. Screening Leading to Early Identification of Problems

- Screen all children for potential behavioral concerns
- Look for data indicating problems for all students
- Use results to provide interventions

10. Add After-School and Other Community Programs for all students

- After school child care
- Recreation opportunities
- Opportunities for participation in sports
- Opportunities to socialize in supervised and appropriate settings

11. School Security Audits/Environmental Planning (annually)

- Physically inspect facility and surrounding areas
- Interview staff, students parents regarding safety concerns
- Review incident reports
- Review existing safety security policies
- Survey perceptions about safety and climate
- Dress codes, and other security measures


II. Early Identification & Intervention

Identify and serve "at-risk" students

1. Early Identification and Intervention

- Use results of screening and data indicating problems to provide interventions
- Monitor at-risk students to determine effectiveness of interventions
- Increase intensity of intervention quickly when inadequate progress is made

2. Assess "Dangerousness"



- Identify threats related to school disruption and violence
- Procedures for assessing risk status

3. Individual Behavior Plans

- Criteria for beginning a plan (such as after the 4th office referral)
- Gathering of all appropriate data about the student (functional assessment)
- Hypotheses and proposed interventions explicit
- View as a learning plan- include teaching, not just punitive consequences.
- Plan to implement and evaluate

4. School-wide Discipline Programs

- **Develop shared policy and procedure**
 - What is a "referable" incident?
 - What are the consequences?
 - What about halls, playground, buses?
- **Consistent classroom management**
 - Accountability in behavior management?
 - Training and ongoing support for management issues

5. Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Programs



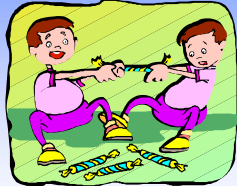
Selected individuals (students and/or adults) are trained in the principles and foundation abilities of conflict resolution and in the mediation process in order to provide neutral third-party facilitation to those in conflict to reach a resolution.
Crawford & Bodine

6. Anger Management/ Counseling



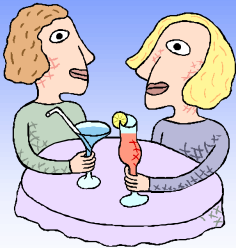
- Several training programs available
- Focus is on recognizing and developing appropriate responses to anger
- Length of treatment may be important
- Framing relevance to child issues may be useful

7. Bullying Prevention and Intervention



- Assess needs- often school personnel underestimate
- Create awareness
- Implement education and interventions
- Assess progress
- View as long-term

8. Mentoring Programs



- Identify students in need
- Recruit, select and train mentors
- Make a commitment to the mentoring role
- Support and follow-up
- Examples: Big Brothers/ Sisters; Teammates, etc.

9. Academic Support Programs




- School within school, alternative and at-risk programs
- Truancy, absences tardiness and related interventions
- Adult, Peer and Cross-age tutoring

III. Effective Responses to Inappropriate Behavior

Preparation and Response for Serious Behavior Problems

1. Behavior Support/ School Safety/ Student Assistance Teams




- Key Members of School Community
- Use existing team
- Members
 - Teachers (general & special)
 - Administration (disciplinarian)
 - Parent/community members
- Coordinated approach
 - Are we all on the same page

Team based problem solving and planning for individual students, and for school behavior improvement.

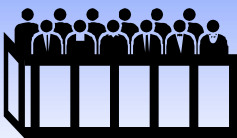
2. Increase Effective Discipline Alternatives

- Avoid Zero Tolerance Policies- more options
- Reduce exclusionary consequences
- Expand discipline alternatives
- In-school suspension programs
- Effective Alternative Settings
- Use restrictive special education settings




3. Involving Students in Decision Making

- Use programs like teen courts or Student Disciplinary Boards to involve students in choosing and applying consequences for their peer's behavior.
- Students on Behavior Teams.




4. Obtain & Manage Information; Coordinate with Agencies

- Obtain data
- Share information with appropriate agencies & organizations
- Use information to make decisions



5. Technology for School Security

- Security cameras
 - Documentation, if not prevention
- Metal detectors
- Identification and multifunction badges
- Monitor visitors/ control access
- Communication radios, intercoms and telephones
- Etc.



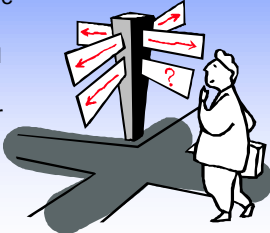
6. School Community Resource Officers

- Brings police presence into school- prevents problems
- Facilitates responses to and investigations of school crime
- Permits development of relationships between potential offenders and the officers



7. Develop Educational Alternative Options-

- Traditional alternative programs
- School within school programs
- Discipline schools or programs
- Special education programs



8. Emergency Preparation & Crisis Planning

- Plan for handling the most serious or violent types of situations
 - Communication
 - Safety
 - Roles and responsibilities
 - Liaison with police
 - Train staff
 - Establish procedures or drills
- Develop drills for various situations and practice them, using results to improve procedures
- Obtain training in physical restraint & conflict resolution procedures

9. Crisis Response Following a Crisis

- Minimizing the effects of the crisis by engaging in a "healing process".
- Mobilizing trained professionals to provide support and to "process" the crisis.
 - NOVA or NEAT teams & others
- Issues
 - Maintaining or modifying schedules
 - Plan for funerals and memorials
 - Getting food, shelter and other assistance to those in need.
 - Reassuring parents and community

The Process and Procedures


How can schools use data in a planning process to implement this content?

Planning Process

- Who plans?
 - One individual
 - A group or team
- If a group,
 - How does this tie to other plans or planning efforts?
 - How is the group picked?
 - How many?
 - Group dynamics?

Planning Process

- Problem Solving Process
 - Gather information
 - Identify goals or needs
 - Identify possible actions
 - Evaluate potential actions
 - Choose and prioritize actions



Team Process: Developing the Plan

- One strategy from each dimension
 - » Creating Climate
 - » Early Identification
 - » Effective Response
- Overarching focus
 - » Mission / Goal
- Evaluation
 - » What do we target?
 - » How do we know if its effective?

Potential Data for Planning

- Needs Assessment completed by team
- Safety Surveys / Climate Surveys
 - Parent, Staff, & Student
- School Data
 - Office Referrals
 - Absences, Tardiness
 - Student Academic Achievement Data

Needs Assessment

- Survey
 - Consisted of 24 items
 - 5 pt. Likert scale
 - Assessed schools' strengths, weaknesses & resources at each of 3 levels
- Compilation of Results
 - Discussed ratings, came to consensus
 - Calculated means

I. Creating a Positive Climate

To what extent does your school have:

1. Programs for students who are struggling academically?

1	2	3	4	5
No awareness	Know of, but not used	Good awareness Beginning to use	Frequently used	Well-estab school-wide

Documentation:

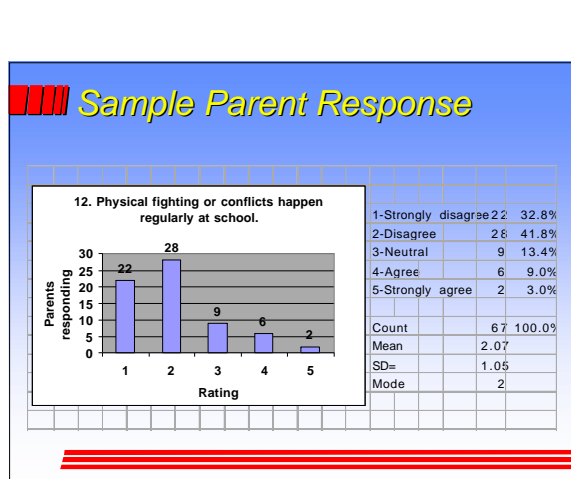
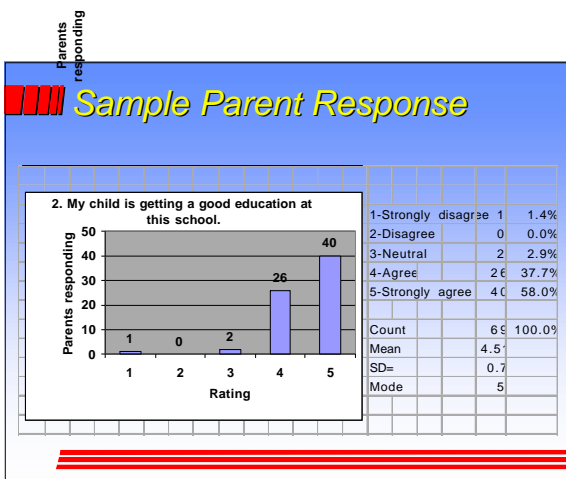
2. One or more programs that focus on building a sense of community or a sense of belonging for students in your school?

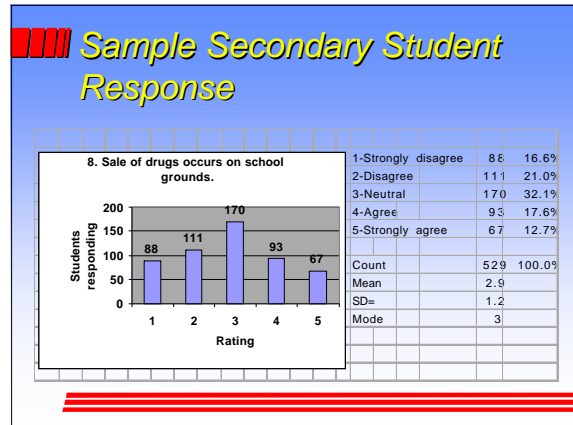
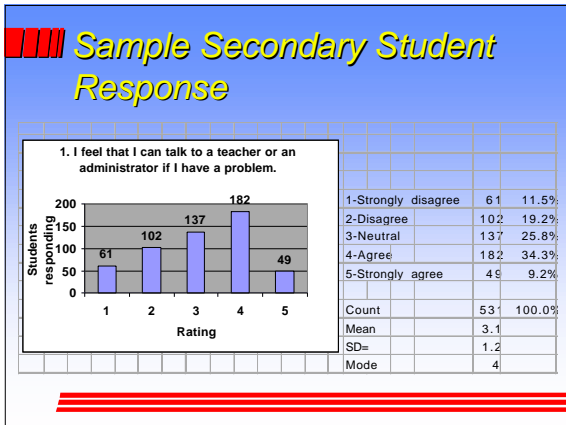
1	2	3	4	5
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Documentation:

School Safety / Climate Survey

- Developed from a combination of conflict resolution, school climate, bullying, and violence prevention surveys
- Three versions
 - Student
 - » Elementary (25 items)
 - » Secondary (45 items)
 - Staff (40 items)
 - Parent (27 items)
- Items overlap across versions





Survey Subscales

Scale	Elementary Student	Secondary Student	Staff	Parents
Personal safety	x	x	x	x
Belongingness	x	x	x	x
Effective learning and general climate	x	x	x	x
Personal school experience		x		x
Major safety issues	x	x	x	x
Drugs/ alcohol		x	x	
Incivility/ disruption	x	x	x	x
Lie scale		x		

Use Discussion to Identify Gaps

- Use data about existing activities to identify gaps
- Understand the possible programs to fill those gaps
 - For example, See SRS Project Fact Sheets

Optional Elements at Each Level- Resources?

- What are the programs which could be implemented?
- How much would they cost?
 - Dollars? Time? Space? Materials or Equip?
 - Staff Development time?

Create a Plan

- Identify new elements to be added
- Identify existing elements to be expanded or rejuvenated
- Develop an implementation plan

School Plans

- Plans varied by school
 - Built upon preexisting programs
 - Created new programs
 - Used commercially available programs
 - Examples
 - › Bullying Prevention
 - › Social Skills Training
 - › After School Education
 - › Out of Classroom Intervention
 - › Community Connections

Resources from Safe & Responsive Schools Project

- FACT Sheets
- Facilitator Guide
- Safe & Responsive Schools Surveys
- Websites

Safe and Responsive Schools Project Websites:



- www.unl.edu/srs
- <http://www.indiana.edu/~safeschl/>

Reece L. Peterson & Courtney Miller

202A & 204L Barkley Center
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68583-0732
402-472-5480 / 402-472-0274
rpeterson1@unl.edu
cjmiller_1@excite.com



With Russ Skiba
Institute for Child Study
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405
812-856-8440
skiba@indiana.edu
