



STAND UP FOR SCHOOL SAFETY



Safe and Sound Students
safeandsoundschools.org



Students! Are you passionate about school safety and want to get involved, but don't know how to approach your school? Here are a few tips to help you feel more confident and prepared to start your own school safety conversation.

Get Educated

RESEARCH ONLINE

On our website, you will find free and easy-to-understand tools to help you learn about school safety. Look on your district's website for existing information about safety programs or teams. Research other programs and services you could present to your administration. Reviewing what already exists may answer some of your questions.



GATHER DATA

Get permission from your principal to survey students and teachers about school safety. The results of the survey will help you get a sense of the most important school safety issues. If you can't do a formal survey, reach out to your classmates and capture their perceptions as best you can.

ATTEND SAFETY CONFERENCES

Reach out to local school safety conferences and see if they would be willing to give you a scholarship to attend. Attend school board meetings to learn more about the bigger picture. Hearing from experts is a great way to learn about best practices and solutions. If you can't attend in person, try reviewing some #schoolsafety twitter chats or Webinars.



ASK QUESTIONS

Talk to people you know at neighboring schools about problems they have had and solutions that worked (or those that didn't).

Get Prepared

MEETING WITH THE RIGHT LEADER

Be clear about what your issues and concerns are to make sure that you reach out to the right person. Here is a list of examples below:

Within the Classroom	District-Wide Safety Policy or Issue	School Protocols and Procedures
Teacher	Principal or Safety Team	Superintendent

COME UP WITH A PLAN

It isn't enough to just tell your administrators a list of your concerns. Come in with options that could work as solutions! Organize your research findings and prioritize the most important issues you discovered in your survey findings.



PRICE IT OUT

Take the extra step and find out how much the solutions you are presenting cost. Talk through ways you could find the best deals or focus on solutions that are low cost.

PRACTICE

Before your meeting with administrators/district leaders, practice saying your plans out loud. Have others to listen to you and ask you follow up questions.



TIPS:

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Get Going



VOLUNTEER

Let your administration know that you are committed to helping! If you are prepared to step in and help, the project's chances of success increase.



KEEP WORKING

Know that changes in school safety take time... sometimes years. Progress is progress. Don't be discouraged if it takes longer than you anticipated.

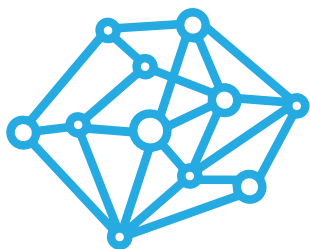


GAIN TRUST

Be prepared to build trust with the adults you will be working with. Introduce yourself to school safety personal and let them know why you are involved.

START A SAFE AND SOUND YOUTH COUNCIL

You don't have to do this alone. Recruit other students to join your cause. Learn more about our club just for students, and start one today in your school! Or reach out to other clubs who can help make safety part of their mission.



NETWORK

Build a network of support that can help you along the way. Develop working relationships with safety teams in other schools. Social media is a great way to connect with other safety leaders.

“Leaders become great, not because of their power, but because of their ability to empower others.”

John C. Maxwell



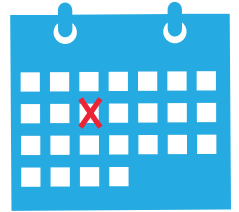


TIP

How to Get the Most of Your Meeting

1. MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Popping into an administrator's office unexpectedly or stopping them in the hallway to talk is not the ideal way to start a conversation about school safety. Email or make an appointment with your school administration, safety team lead, or superintendent ahead of time.



2. SET THE TONE

Have confidence in your message and use language that is professional to help build your credibility. Avoid pointing fingers at others, using foul language, or slang. Be sure your message is clear and respectful. Here is an example:

Hi. My name is _____. I am a student at _____. I noticed (state concern concisely) _____ and I wanted to talk with you about some ideas I have regarding _____. I thought about what could be done and I spoke with _____. We thought that we could _____ (provide option A) or _____ (provide option B). I wanted talk with you about our ideas and hear your thoughts and feedback.

3. FOLLOW UPS

Set up a follow up meeting to keep momentum going.

4. THANK YOU

Make sure you send an email or a card to thank your administrator for taking the time to meet with you.





TIP

Organizing Materials for Your Meeting

Need some suggestions for how to organize your materials for your meeting? Here is a suggested outline you can use to help get ready:

1. INTRODUCTION

Introduce yourself and explain why you feel that school safety is important to you.

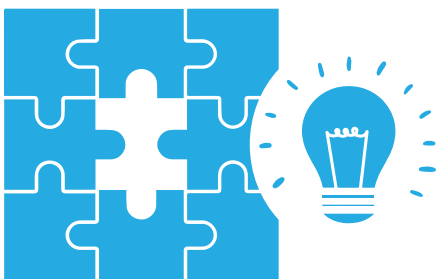
2. PRESENT THE PROBLEM

Explain that you have some school safety concerns you would like to share. Avoid reading off a long list. Possibly group your findings into the following categories: RED - high priority, YELLOW, medium priority, and GREEN - low priority. Take the time to explain why the concerns are important and worth fixing. Offer statistics, research findings, or survey results that can best support your position.

HIGH PRIORITY!

MEDIUM PRIORITY

LOW PRIORITY



3. OFFER SOLUTIONS

Present any school safety programs, products, or personal you have to offer as possible solutions. Make sure add the costs of the solution and the process that would be involved in bringing the solution to your school. Make sure to ask if there are any questions.

4. CONCLUSIONS

To finish strong, ask what the administrator/district leader needs to keep to take the next step. Discuss what action steps need to happen next and make a plan.

Next Steps:

- Set up follow-up meetings
- Signed permission from superintendent