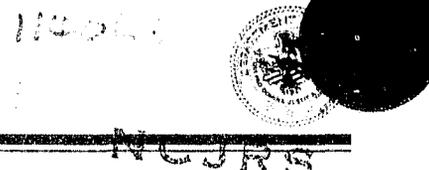




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OJJDP Update on Programs

Verne L. Speirs, Administrator

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Safer schools, better schools

The academic environment for America's 45.5 million public school students is too often disrupted by drug use, truancy, vandalism, and gang activity. Many students drop out of school to lead lives marked by illiteracy, unemployment, and crime. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), recognizing that schools play an important role in preventing delinquency, funds several programs that address some of our schools' major problems.

This Update describes the following OJJDP programs designed to coordinate efforts to curb school crime, especially the violent crime associated with drug use:

- The National School Safety Center
- Law Related Education
- Cities in Schools
- Super Teams
- SAFE POLICY

National School Safety Center

The National School Safety Center (NSSC), in Encino, California, serves as a national clearinghouse and resource center for programs and activities related to campus security,

legal issues, community relations, student discipline and attendance, and the prevention of drug abuse, gangs, and bullying. NSSC's primary objective is to focus national attention on providing safe and effective schools.

Using its extensive network of national agencies in education, law, and criminal justice, NSSC produces and distributes films, handbooks, texts, and public relations materials to educators and students. NSSC also provides technical assistance and offers legal and legislative aid including preparation of amicus curiae briefs in selected cases involving school safety issues.

NSSC sponsors several special projects including the Drug-Free Schools campaign, an annual "Principals of Leadership" recognition program, and America's Safe Schools Week.

The Drug-Free Schools campaign.

This print and television public service advertising campaign focuses on teens' self-esteem and personal integrity in an attempt to debunk the myth that one must use drugs to "belong" or be accepted by others. Instead of relying on scare tactics, the campaign places a positive emphasis on one's value as a person.

Not only do drugs and crime usually occur together, but the added presence of gangs in schools increases the likelihood that violent crime will also occur. Statistics compiled by NSSC speak for themselves:

- From 60 to 90 percent of all offenses committed by youth have occurred in groups, according to some researchers.
- Disruptive youth groups involve up to 20 percent of eligible boys in cities of more than 10,000 population.
- In 1987, more than 350 gang-related killings occurred in Los Angeles County, an 80-percent increase over 1986.

NSSC has published a new handbook, *Gangs in Schools*, offering the latest information on gangs and advice on preventing or reducing gang encroachment in schools.

Schools can strike at the root of delinquency by refusing to allow gangs to exist on campus and providing an opportunity for young people to be productive and responsible citizens. NSSC's new antigang public service campaign employs professional athletes as role models. It recently unveiled a new poster featuring Manute Bol and

From the Administrator

The future of our Nation rests in the hands of our young people—our future leaders. It is imperative, therefore, that our youth take advantage of the educational opportunities this country offers.

However, crime and violence, much of it drug related, are interfering with teaching and learning in schools across the country. That is one of the reasons the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) has made fighting juvenile drug use one of its priorities. The goals of our drug efforts include helping to make our schools drug free, as

well as holding young people accountable for illegal drug use.

In addition, recognizing that the juvenile justice and education systems must work together on drug and other school issues, OJJDP funds several programs to make our schools safe and to teach youth about their responsibilities as law-abiding citizens.

Some of these programs are designed specifically to help rid our schools of drugs, others help potential dropouts stay in school, and still others encourage school and community leaders to work together to solve school problems.

As the Federal office responsible for addressing juvenile justice issues, we have an obligation to share information about effective programs. The projects discussed in this Update are examples of such programs. We hope they will help school leaders and juvenile justice practitioners as they strive to make our schools safe, so that teachers can teach and students can learn.

Verne L. Speirs
Administrator

OJJDP



Photo by Stuart Greenbaum, NSSC

Verne L. Speirs (right), Administrator of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues, the shortest player in the history of the National Basketball Association, unveil a new National School Safety Center poster urging youth to turn peer pressure into a positive force.

Tyrone "Muggsy" Bogues (the tallest and shortest players in the history of the National Basketball Association) urging juveniles to adopt positive, rather than negative, role models.

The Principals of Leadership recognition program. This print media public service advertising campaign spotlights some of the country's exemplary school principals. "Principals of Leadership" honors 10 principals each year for their creative and determined efforts to provide students with safe, productive learning environments.

America's Safe Schools Week. With the support of President Reagan, the third week in October each year is America's Safe Schools Week. It focuses national attention on schools and programs that effectively prevent campus crime and violence, improve discipline, increase attendance, and suppress drug traffic and abuse.

Law Related Education

Law Related Education (LRE) is a national program that teaches elementary and secondary students about law and the legal system and their rights

and responsibilities as citizens. More than just an addition to social studies, Law Related Education fits into the general curriculum at any grade level.

LRE is conducted for OJJDP by five national organizations: the American Bar Association Special Committee on Youth Education for Citizenship, the Center for Civic Education, the Constitutional Rights Foundation, the National Institute for Citizen Education in the Law, and Phi Alpha Delta Public Service Center.

These organizations develop partnership programs, write classroom curriculums, train educators and resource persons, and mobilize community support for LRE.

In Law Related Education classrooms, volunteers, including judges, lawyers, police officers, legislators, and other law-related professionals, work with young people to help them increase their understanding about the law and legal system.

In elementary schools, LRE offers students the opportunity to learn about the underlying principles of law, the legal system, and government. In secondary schools, LRE teaches not only about the law but also about

decisionmaking in a democracy, about individual accountability for events in government, and about responsibility for being good citizens. Much of the course material comes from newspaper articles and court decisions or is developed through learning experiences.

To stress to young people that they will be held accountable for using illegal drugs, the national LRE organizations are developing new drug-focused programs. For example, the law students in the Phi Alpha Delta law fraternity at Texas Tech University have developed a manual explaining the legal consequences of an arrest and conviction for drug or alcohol offenses in Texas. The law students present the material to high school students in the Lubbock school system.

In St. Paul, Minnesota, students at Hamline University School of Law have developed a program that takes students through all phases of a drunk driving case. The program can be adapted for presentation in 1-, 2-, or 3-day segments as part of a regular high school civics class.

The LRE drug-focused programs will be tested in 21 States during the 1988-1989 school year and will be available in all States during the 1989-1990 school year.

According to evaluation results, properly implemented LRE programs can reduce student tendencies to resolve issues by violence, reduce dependence on delinquent peers, enhance understanding of the legal system, and develop healthier attitudes toward the legal system.

Last year, more than 15,000 teachers were trained in the Law Related Education curriculum, representing 400 school districts in 34 States.

Cities in Schools

Cities in Schools is a national public and private partnership that brings existing public and private resources and people into schools where they can most benefit potential dropouts.

Quitting school is usually part of a cycle that frequently includes crime—

60 percent of prison inmates are high school dropouts—illiteracy, unemployment, teenage pregnancy, and drug and alcohol use. These problems are often compounded by poor economic conditions such as inadequate housing, clothing, food, and health care.

Usually, troubled youths seek help from social service agencies spread all over town, but Cities in Schools promotes locating existing public and private resources—counseling, education, health, recreation, financial, legal, and employment—in the school, where they can do the most good.

School officials refer students to Cities in Schools because of low academic achievement, poor attendance, disruptive behavior, or family problems. The students report to a team of counselors who not only monitor the students' school work and provide encouragement, but put them in touch with job opportunities, help plan sporting activities and field trips, and when necessary, help find drug rehabilitation programs.

Social service workers may help the student's family find affordable housing and financial or legal assistance. They may introduce the family to services that will improve their situation so the student can continue in school.

The program uses private volunteers who, for example, may teach students how to balance a checkbook, apply for a job, or prepare a tax return. A Cities in Schools program in Atlanta has been established in Rich's Department Store where Rich's employees volunteer their time to explain the principles of free enterprise and the workings of the marketplace.

Cities in Schools was initiated in 1974 and has been replicated in over 25 cities, at more than 100 education sites. It is now serving more than 18,000 youth and their families.

Super Teams

Super Teams is a peer counseling program for high school students that stresses a healthy, drug-free society and encourages self-respect and personal

discipline. It is made possible through the joint efforts of the public schools, the National Football Players Association, and other professional athletes.

High school principals, counselors, teachers, and coaches select potential student leaders to participate in the Super Teams program. The mixture of students varies considerably—the students may be leaders in academics, athletics, extracurricular activities, or even leaders of disruptive groups.

With the help of trained counselors and professional athletes whom students admire, Super Teams develops a core group of students to serve as peer counselors in their high schools.

Super Teams has three parts:

Part I is a training seminar for Super Team staff—school administrators, teachers, coaches, parents, and professional athletes.

Part II is a 5-day intensive residential program for students and staff. Through roleplaying and other activities, students learn about the medical and social dangers of drug use, ways to cope with peer pressure, and how to seek help. Students return to their high schools, give presentations, invite guest speakers, and share the skills they learned in the 5-day program.

Part III is the important followup component. Frequent visits with the students by school advisers, team coaches, professional athletes, and the training staff provide the positive reinforcement that is important to the program's success. Super Team counselors and advisers help students arrange opportunities to speak in the junior high and elementary schools that feed into the high school thus extending the effects of the antidrug message.

Although Super Teams is primarily an antidrug program, students also learn how to deal with associated problems at home and school. They gain a healthier self-image and learn to communicate more effectively, act responsibly, confront everyday problems, and accept the consequences of their behavior.

Evaluators of the program report a 31-percent increase in honor roll students

in participating schools. Students who never considered going to college find that improved grades have opened new doors and introduced them to new opportunities.

SAFE POLICY

Law enforcement officials commonly complain that school leaders do not call the police when they find students using drugs, when drugs are seized, or when drug-related crimes are committed in schools.

Community and school leaders who work together to combat illegal drug use find the results can be especially effective. SAFE POLICY (School Administrators for Effective Police, Prosecution, Probation Operations Leading to Improved Children and Youth Services) is an intensive workshop that motivates teams of community leaders to improve delinquency prevention and school safety by communicating and working together.

Each team must include a school superintendent, a police chief or sheriff, a chief prosecutor, and a chief probation officer. A juvenile court judge and the director of youth or social work also are invited. The course stresses that all must cooperate to develop policies to fight illegal drug use.

SAFE POLICY participants examine:

- Problems community agencies share in dealing with troubled youth.
- Results of habitual juvenile offender programs.
- Schools, police, prosecution, probation, and judicial perspectives on their unique missions, requirements, workloads, and problems.
- Legal considerations and myths that prevent cooperation and sharing of information among agencies.
- Ways to plan and implement management changes.

In the coming months other OJJDP Updates will describe additional programs and research leading to healthier and improved ways of responding to children's needs.

OJJDP

For more information

National School Safety Center
16830 Ventura Boulevard, Suite 200
Encino, CA 91436
818-377-6200

Law Related Education
Lee Arbetman, Project Coordinator
c/o National Institute for Citizen
Education in the Law
25 E Street NW., Suite 400
Washington, DC 20001
202-662-9620

Cities in Schools
1023 15th Street NW., Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
202-861-0230

Super Teams
1411 K Street NW., Suite 910
Washington, DC 20005
202-783-1533

SAFE POLICY
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention
Roti Laney
633 Indiana Avenue NW., Room 700
Washington, DC 20531
202-724-5940

The following materials also are
available:

*Law Related Education: Making a
Difference* NCJ 112067. Free while
supply lasts. Write to the Juvenile
Justice Clearinghouse, Box 6000,
Rockville, MD 20850. Also available
from the American Bar Association,

Order Fulfillment, 750 North Lake
Shore Drive, Chicago, IL 60611.

Law Related Education NCJ 097854
(free).

*Research in Action: Project DARE:
Teaching Kids To Say "No" to Drugs
and Alcohol* NCJ 100756 (free).

School Safety Programs NCJ 099860
(free).

Toward Better and Safer Schools NCJ
095716 (\$5.00).

*Comparative Trends of Criminal
Victimization in School and in the
Community* NCJ 098598 (\$8.20).

Police Handling of Youth Gangs NCJ
088927 (\$8.40).

*International Summary: Education and
Delinquency* NCJ 094337 (\$4.00).

Safer Students, Better Schools NCJ
098687 (VHS, Beta, 3/4 inch tape
\$21.20, \$37.70).

*Violent Juvenile Offenders: An
Anthology* NCJ 095108 (\$28.00).

A wide range of materials are available
from the National School Safety
Center. NSSC publishes more than a
half-dozen books including *Educated
Public Relations: School Safety 101*,
*School Crime and Violence: Victims'
Rights*, and *Gangs in Schools*. They
also publish *School Safety*, a newsjour-
nal. NSSC's *What's Wrong With This
Picture* is an 18-minute docudrama on
drug trafficking and abuse, intima-
dation, teacher "burnout," and theft.

Topical Bibliographies contain
abstracts of 90 to 200 publications and
ordering information:

*Alcohol, Drug, and Substance Abuse
Among Juveniles* TB020505 (\$17.50).

Violence and Vandalism in Schools
TB020503 (\$17.50).

Topical Searches contain abstracts
of 30 publications and ordering
information:

Alcoholism Among Juveniles
TS021505 (\$5.00).

*Drug and Narcotic Abuse Among
Juveniles* TS021504 (\$5.00).

Violence and Vandalism in Schools
TS020503 (\$5.00).

Note: Topical Searches are free to
Federal, State, and local criminal
justice agencies. To obtain free
searches, call the Juvenile Justice
Clearinghouse at 1-800-638-8736 or
write on your agency's letterhead to the
Juvenile Justice Clearinghouse, Box
6000, Rockville, MD 20850.

The Assistant Attorney General, Office
of Justice Programs, coordinates the
activities of the following program
Offices and Bureaus: Bureau of
Justice Statistics, National Institute of
Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance,
Office of Juvenile Justice and
Delinquency Prevention, and Office
for Victims of Crime.

U.S. Department of Justice

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

Washington, D.C. 20531

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