

Ten Steps to a Safer School

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Let's Do A Survey

- List the top 3 items you think should appear on my list.

#10 Money

- Money is important but many safe schools don't have a lot of money, and a lot of schools with money are not safe.

#10

- There will never be enough money to do all the things you want to do.
- Therefore, develop priorities for the money you have.
- You will be criticized for your priorities unless you use the Crisis Team to assist you in this process. Broad input, experience, opinions, etc.
- The main thing, is make sure that the main thing – is the main thing! PRIORITIZE!

#10

- First step in solving a problem is to clearly identify the problem!
- Conduct a Vulnerability Assessment
- Trouble in secluded areas?
- Outsiders loitering around school?
- Break ins/vandalism, etc.?
- Fights?
- Gangs?
- Drugs?

#10

- Heavy traffic?
- Railroads nearby?
- Subject to flooding?
- List ALL issues
- Prioritize them
- Use this as your budget projection guide
- Budgets reflect the leader's priorities

#9 – A School Board Committed to A Safe School.

- Ever heard of a school board that says they are NOT committed to a safe school?
- Actions speak louder than words.
- Philosophy: “We believe in a safe school.”
- Programs: Long-term efforts (i.e. DARE, etc.)
- Projects: Short-term efforts (i.e. Stop the Bullying Day, etc.)
- Policies: Step by step details to be followed.

#9

- School Board must support the funding needs of the selected programs, projects, etc. and stand behind them for the long haul. (gears?)
- Demand progress reports for the programs, projects, etc.
- Inspect what you expect.
- What the boss counts – counts!
- Avoid the brand of the month.
- Good sound ideas vs. ideas that sound good.

#9

- Foster a safe school culture (or create one?)
(i.e. “A safe school is the responsibility of **everyone - all** the time.”)
- Provides funds (unfunded mandates?)
- Provide political power schools need.
- Generate community support for programs.

#8 – Appoint a Safety Coordinator

- Someone responsible to the superintendent for the safety/security programs, plans, projects, policies, etc.
- Conduct district/school Risk Assessment.
- Identify the vulnerabilities of each.
- Prioritize the vulnerabilities.
- Develop Action Plans.
- Keep the Safety Coordinator well trained.

#7 - Create A Crisis Plan

- ACT 309 MANDATES this!
- Must address 4 phases of crisis planning:
 - 1. Prevention/Mitigation
 - 2. Preparedness
 - 3. Response
 - 4. Recovery

#7

- “It is critical that school boards and law enforcement work together and both agencies provide resources to make students safe.”
 - Wisconsin Legislature, May 2010
- Act 309 Requires/Encourages the following:
 - Table top exercises
 - Review of the Crisis Plan
 - Emergency drills
 - Annual Anti-bullying Week (last week in Sep)

#6 – Interagency MOU's

- Memorandums of Understanding
- “In a crisis I’ll do this and you’ll do that.”
- Prevents stove pipe thinking.
- Schools MUST plan with the following:
 - Police
 - Fire
 - Emergency rescue – ambulances
 - Businesses
 - Churches, etc.

#6

- Alternate assembly areas.
- Radio/TV stations for communications.
- Reunification process.
- “Americans will always do the right thing – after they have tried everything else.”
- Churchill

#5 – Parental Involvement

- Don't let them run your schools, but give them opportunities for input.
- What you ask from your parents is what you get – What you get is what you deserve.
- Parents are children's first teachers – and maybe their last.
- How to keep them actively involved is a growing national problem.

..... in 50 years a lot has changed in school

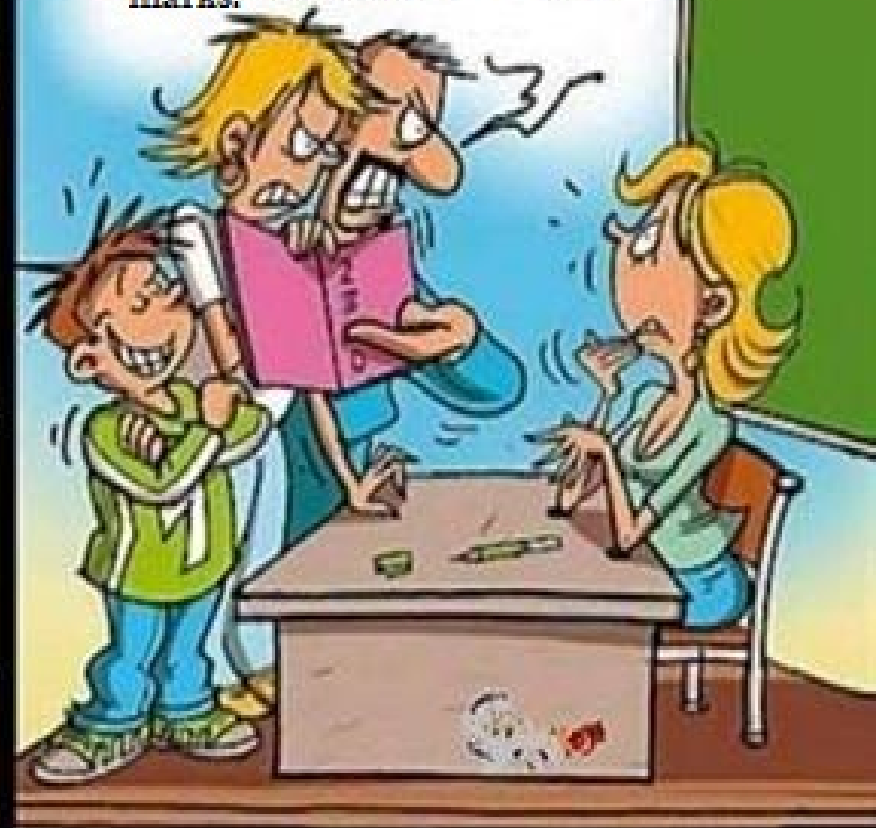
1961

What's the meaning of these marks?



2011

What's the meaning of these marks?



#4 – Student Involvement in Safety

- Students want to be safe.
- They will help you keep your school safe.
- They will tell you when things are unsafe.
- You must protect them when they do.
- “Snitches get stitches and end up in ditches.”
- Their view is different than adult view.
- They see problems before adults do.

3 – School Staff Committed to Safety

- Three action steps **all** staff must take:
 1. Scan
 2. Focus
 3. Act

They help create a safe or unsafe environment
i.e. unlocked doors, candles, paper on
walls/doors, unsecured personal items,
ignoring/not recognizing a child in distress.

2 - Communications

- “What we have here – is a failure to communicate!” – warden in Cool Hand Luke.
- 360 degrees.
- Leader to staff and back.
- School board to parents and back.
- School to police and back, Etc.
- Communicating is the most important thing we adults do - Look what happens when we don't.

#2

- What are the acceptable norms (i.e. clothing).
- What are the acceptable standards of behavior (bullying, language, relationships.)
- A welcoming environment.
- An educational environment.
- Education is THE top priority.

#1- The Principal

- The principal is the single most important internal factor in a safe school!!!
- What you expect from your principal is what you get. What you get is what you deserve.
- Establishes the priorities (The main things)
- Creates the culture
- Creates the environment (like soil for a flower)
- Affects the motivation of the entire staff
- Comfort the afflicted- afflict the comforted

#1

- Establishes budget priorities.
- Makes parents welcome.
- Reassures the Board and superintendent the school is working toward district goals.
- Has a major impact on the aforementioned items 1-9.
- Establishes a consistent disciplinary procedure.

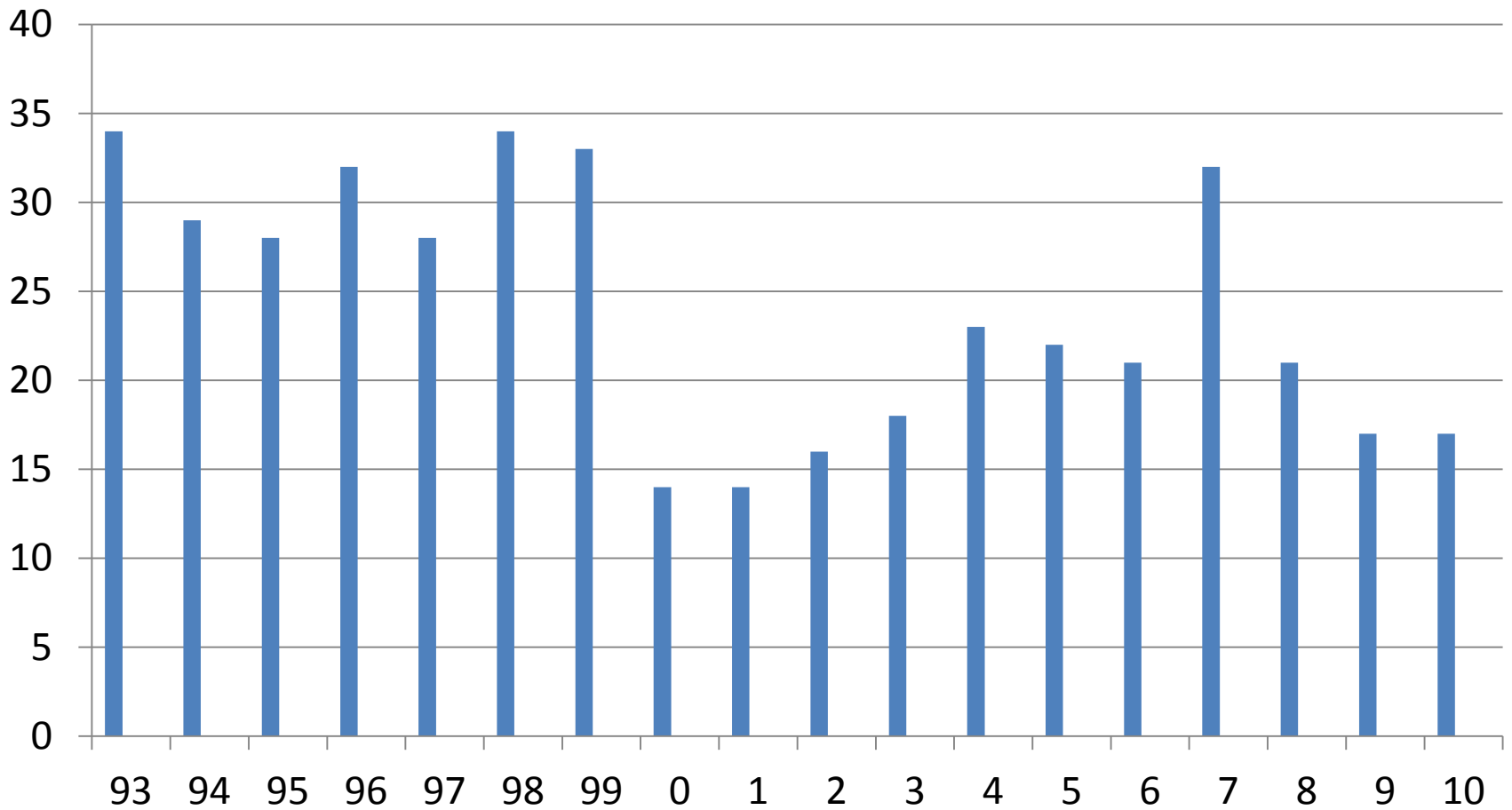
#1

- It not the severity of punishment that alters behavior – it is the certainty of it.
- “The best leaders are the best communicators. They set clear goals with clear consequences. “ - Jack Welch, GE
- Media and community relations. “The best leaders are able to handle a challenging crisis, and still have something left in the tank to explain to the community what they did.”

FINAL STEP:

- 1. Create your own top 10. One size does not fit all.
- 2. For Heaven's sake – do something with it!
- A safe school must be a top goal for all school districts.

School Homicides 1993-2010



What is Being Done?

- “Each school is different and should have the flexibility to address its most pressing needs. Some schools will want trained armed police; others may prefer increased counseling services. Either way, each district should be able to choose what is best to protect its own students.” – President Obama, Jan 15, 2013

In Closing..,

- “If there must be trouble, let it be in my time – That my child may find peace.”

-Thomas Payne (circa 1800)

President's Proposal

- \$150M for 1,000 SRO's, psychologists, social workers, counselors, etc. or equipment
- \$30M to states for emergency planning
- \$50M for strategies for nurturing environment
- \$15M for mental health detection in schools
- \$40M for school mental health services
- \$25M mental health/substance abuse
- \$25M for student trauma/anxiety services
- \$50M training for mental health professionals

In Closing

- “If there must be trouble, let it be in my time – that my child may find peace.”

- Thomas Paine, circa 1800

WSSCA

Education First – Safety Always

