



"Creating Safer Schools....Building by Building"
"Creando Escuelas Seguras....Escuela Por Escuela"

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FACT SHEET

Seven Characteristics of Promising School Violence Prevention Programs

After extensively reviewing school-based programs to prevent violence, the U.S. General Accounting Office identified the following seven characteristics as being associated with the most promising interventions:

1 Comprehensive Approach.

These programs recognize violence as a complex problem that requires a multifaceted response. Consequently, they address more than one problem area and involve a variety of services that link schools to the community.

2 Early start and long-term commitment.

There is a focus on (1) reaching young children to shape attitudes, knowledge, and behavior while they are still open to positive influences, and (2) sustaining the intervention over multiple years (for example, from kindergarten through 12th grade).

3 Strong leadership and disciplinary policies.

Leadership is strong at the school level. Principals and school administrators need to sustain stable funding, staff, and a program components, and most important, they must collaborate with others to reach program goals. In addition, student disciplinary policies are clear and consistently applied.

4 Staff Development.

Key school administrators, teachers, and staff are trained to handle disruptive students and mediate conflict as well as understand and incorporate prevention strategies into their school activities.

5 Parental Involvement.

The schools seek to increase parental involvement in reducing violence by providing training on violence prevention skills, making home visits, and enlisting parents as volunteers.

6 Interagency partnerships and community linkages.

The schools seeks community support in making school antiviolenence policies and programs work. To accomplish this, they develop collaborative agreements in which school personnel, local businesses, law enforcement officers, social service agencies, and private groups work together to address the multiple causes of violence.

7 Culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate materials and activities.

Program materials and activities are designed to be compatible with (1) students' cultural values and norms by using bilingual materials and culturally appropriate program activities, role models, and leaders, and (2) participants' age and level of development.