

## Community

### Safe school activities

Community involvement can be a strong impetus in creating safe schools. Get your community involved. Use some of these activities to remind residents that school safety is everyone's business.

- Have a "Safety Pledge Ceremony." Invite the community to come to the school for a safety pledge ceremony. Include local law enforcement. Students, parents, teachers, and community members can all take the pledge together.
- Start a "Safe House" program. Children learn that homes posting "Safe House" signs are safe places to go if they are in danger or need assistance. Community residents will need to be closely screened before they are accepted as participants.
- Be a guest speaker. Local community leaders can serve as guest speakers on issues like violence prevention, crisis planning, disease control, etc.
- Plan a community beautification campaign. Have students work with the community to help clean up graffiti and litter in local neighborhoods. With professional guidance, students can help maintain campuses, parks and other community areas. Beautification projects enhance the appearance of the community and develop a strong sense of pride among participants.
- Recruit senior citizens. Senior citizens can make school presentations to history classes about public attitudes and "firsthand" experiences during significant times in our country's history.
- Participate in "adopt-a-school" programs. This trend in school-business partnerships unites a business with a school needing resources the business can donate, such as equipment or excess supplies. Businesses can provide company or staff services, such as bookkeeping, transportation, building repairs, maintenance and professional instruction on computers or other equipment.
- Be part of a welcoming committee to greet new residents. You can provide information, answer questions about the schools and current activities, and deliver school packets for children.