

- Seek professional assistance when needed and in a timely manner. Do NOT wait until a problem gets out of control and then look for professional help!

Parents must provide order, structure and consistent discipline. Although you love your child, realize that he or she is still a kid and will test the limits. Ask probing questions: Where are you going? Who will be with you? And do some follow-up to verify the answers you get!

Inspect your child's room from time to time. Parents have found gang graffiti on bedroom walls, drug paraphernalia on dresser tops, sexually explicit notes, weapons in book-bags leaving the home, graffiti and revealing information on school notebooks, and much, more once they get up the nerve to start snooping! Unfortunately, some parents falsely believe that they should not-or legally cannot-go into their child's room. It is your house and your child-check them both and check them regularly! It is not only your right, but your responsibility!!!

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SUHSD Board Policy #2224



Student Support Services

PARENTS: School Safety, Gangs and More

Department of Student Support Services
Safe Schools

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How Safe is Your Child's School?

CAN YOU HELP PREVENT ANOTHER NATIONAL TRAGEDY?

What can a parent do? What does a parent need to know? National School Safety and Security Services has developed this page to provide a starting point for parents seeking information on safety threats facing their children's and their families.

Some questions frequently received from parents include:

*Do parents have a right to ask questions about school safety?
What can parents do to check the safety of their child's school?*

We believe that parents not only have a right, but also have a responsibility, to investigate school safety issues at their child's school. Parents should:

- Ask your child about safety in his or her school. Kids know best where the gaps in security exist and what can be done to improve safety in their schools. Unfortunately, most adults (school officials and parents alike) often fail to consult with the kids on these important matters.
- Walk through their child's school to see how far they can go before someone stops them to see why they are in the building. With that notice: Are you stopped promptly and escorted to the office to sign in or can you (and someone else) walk endlessly without being noticed?
- Ask the principal, central office administrators, and school board members questions about school safety. Such questions should include:
 - Has training been provided to all staff on gangs, drugs, weapons, and school security strategies?
 - Has your school been assessed by trained, qualified security professionals?
 - Does your school have crisis preparedness guidelines in place? If so, have these plans been regularly reviewed, tested and updated? Has your school staff been trained on these guidelines?

What are the major threats to my child's safety at school? What are some major obstacles to effective school security? How can schools improve school security? Why do kids join gangs? What are some signs of gangs in my community?

Nobody has easy answers to these difficult questions, but National School Safety and Security Services has a solid history of experience in dealing with schools, children and families on these matters.

What are some practical things parents can do to reduce child safety risks?

Parents can take many steps to address the many threats to child safety in schools, at home and in the community. Examples of such steps include:

- Talk with children early and regularly about gangs, drugs, weapons, school and community safety and related concerns.
- When you talk with children, BE HONEST! Violence and related trauma issues are serious, but more damage can be done by minimizing or exaggerating points than by simply providing children with facts and telling the truth.
- Do NOT assume that your child knows even the "basic" facts about safety and other risks. Kids absorb a lot of information and, unfortunately, much of it is inaccurate or from questionable sources. Let your child get all of the information—the correct information—from you as the parent. Give the information to your child in a non-threatening and non-embarrassing time, place and manner. Perhaps then your child will be more willing to come to you with other questions and problems later on!
- Eliminate access to weapons by youth.
- Be aware of and do not permit gang identifiers.
- Provide order, structure, and consistent discipline in the home.
- Work cooperatively with police and school officials.