

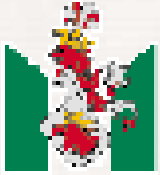
"SAFETY IN SCHOOL AND SOCIETY"



DIMITRIS APOSTOLOU
EKPOL- ETAIRIA KOINONIKIS
PAREMVASIS KAI POLITISMOU,
REGION OF THESSALY, GREECE



HOW IT ALL STARTED PROMOTING SCHOOL SAFETY



**City of Malmö-
Skånes
Turismgymnasium**

**City of Malmö-
Department of
Education**

**City of Malmö-
Department of
Ethnic Relations**



**Shawlands
Academy of
Glasgow**



**Dirección
Provincial de
Educación de
Salamanca, Spain**



**Prefecture of Magnesia
Social and Cultural Council,
EKPOL, Greece**



What SCHOOL SAFETY means- what we put as our target- 9 priorities- Then and now....

Bullying and Cyberbullying

- X ● Cyberbullying
- X ● Physical Bullying
- X ● Verbal Bullying

Cybersecurity

- X Data Breaches
- X Online Exploitation
- X Phishing
- Ransomware



What SCHOOL SAFETY means- what we put as our target- 9 priorities

Emergency Planning

- X • Recovery
- X • Training, Exercises, and Drills

Infectious Diseases and Public Health

- X • Distance Learning
- X • In-Person Learning
- X • Physical Spacing and Testing
- X • Sanitation and Ventilation



What SCHOOL SAFETY means- what we put as our target- 9 priorities

Mental Health

- X ● At Risk Children
- X ● Conduct Issues
- X ● School Based Mental Health Services
- X ● Substance Use
- X ● Suicide Management
- X ● Training, Partnership, and Capacity Building



What SCHOOL SAFETY means- what we put as our target- 9 priorities

Targeted Violence

- X • Physical Security
- X • School Security Personnel
- X • Violence Prevention


School Climate

Threat Assessment and Reporting




PREVENTION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF THE PROBLEM

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIALLY VIOLENT ADOLESCENTS

- 
- Outbursts of uncontrollable anger
 - Uses abusive language
 - Threats of violence common
 - Problems with systematic disobedience
 - Substance dependence
 - Has no close friends- bad relationships with classmates
 - Has frequent running away from school-expulsions
 - Cruelty to animals
 - Has little or no support from parents

PREVENTION AND EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF THE PROBLEM

COMMON CHARACTERISTICS OF POTENTIALLY VIOLENT ADOLESCENTS

- 
- Is a witness or victim of violence in the family
 - Terrorizes peers or younger children
 - Tends to blame others for his own difficulties
 - Systematically prefers films, music, etc. with violent content
 - Prefers to read publications with violent themes, rituals etc.
 - In school reports or assignments expresses anger, frustration and the dark side of life
 - Is involved in a gang or anti-social group
 - Is often sad and/or has significant mood swings
 - Has threatened or attempted suicide

A SCIENTIFIC VIEW OF VIOLENCE – VIOLENCE IS A BEHAVIOR NOT A DIAGNOSIS

POTENTIAL FACTORS OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

- X** Adults: Previous violent behavior, Age, Gender, Socioeconomic level, Occupational conditions, Self-destructive behavior, Drug-alcohol abuse
- X** Children: Parental deprivation and abuse, Early exposure to violence, Frequent interruptions of family life, Outbursts of anger, Problems with forms of authority (running away etc.)



- X DISCIPLINE PROBLEMS IN SCHOOLS - (US Public Schools Survey 2016 – 2017)
- X The most frequently mentioned by the Principals: Student tardiness (40%), Systematic absences (25%), Conflicts between students (21%) - (They were also considered the most serious problems of the school) and:
- X Smoking, Alcohol and other substances (Considered serious only in High Schools, where fights between students are a moderate problem)

Children who have been exposed to violence show more frequent psychiatric symptoms:

A. EXTROVERT: Antisocial behavior, Competitiveness

B. INTROVERT: Anxiety, Depression

School for parents



SPECTRUM OF VIOLENT BEHAVIOR

Temper tantrums, Physical aggression (pushing etc.), Fights, Threats or attempts to hurt others, Use of weapons, Cruelty to animals, Arson, Property destruction and vandalism, Verbal aggression (swearing - derogatory comments - threatening words)

CAUSES OF VIOLENCE BY CHILDREN - ADOLESCENTS

A. Psychiatric disorders: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Conduct Disorder, Oppositional Defiant Disorder, Mental Retardation, Learning Disabilities, Phobias - Anxiety – Depression

B. Environmental causes: Parental deprivation and abuse, Early exposure to violence (media – TV-movies), Lack of social skills, gangs



CAUSES OF ADULT VIOLENCE

- A. Psychiatric disorder: Schizophrenia, Mania, Psychotic depression, Personality disorders (Antisocial, Limbic, Paranoid), Sexual disorders, Substance abuse
- B. Organic brain disorders : Temporal epilepsy, Brain damage, Dementia, Mental retardation
- C. No psychiatric disorder : Occasional loss of control, Deliberate act of violence, Self-defense



- **KEY FEATURES OF A SAFE SCHOOL**

- The school has strong leadership, close collaboration with community agencies and parents, and student participation in program planning.
- The school's physical environment is safe and school activities aim to promote and support responsible behaviors.
-

PREVENTION and INTERVENTION programs are implemented.

- The interventions are based on a correct assessment of the students' needs.
- Staff are provided with training and support to implement interventions and programs.

- SCHOOLS INCORPORATING THESE CHARACTERISTICS WILL ACHIEVE BETTER ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE, REDUCED PENALTY, BETTER STAFF MORALE, AND INCREASED SAFETY (US DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, 2000)



What protects children from becoming violent?

Positive role models. Developing self-esteem. Supportive relationships, including those with teachers, friends. Hope for the future. Faith in yourself. Social skills. Good relationships with peers. Close bond with an adult. Support and care from the mother or a mother figure. Ability to find satisfaction in creative activities, useful work, etc. Feeling that he is in control of his life and can cope with whatever happens



CONTROL OF SCHOOL VIOLENCE

Avoid thinking and believing: "It can't happen to us". Dissemination of information related to incidents of violence. Parents should be in close contact with their children's schools. Parents to create "PARENT SCHOOLS". Advice for children (but not only what not to do). Providing care and supervision to children-adolescents. Involvement of students in after school programs, mainly voluntary help. Respect for children. TALK 'with the children' - not 'to the children'. Reward – motivate children to create resistance to violence precautionary measures ABOUT SCHOOL VIOLENCE



Protecting students from harm or victimization. Protecting students from developing or resorting to aggressive behavior as a way to resolve conflicts.

THE SCHOOL must develop ZERO TOLERANCE for VIOLENCE (ZERO TOLERANCE).

The SCHOOL should NOT appear powerless to respond to violence, either hastily imposing punishments or doing nothing at all.



Back-to-school doesn't have to mean back-to-worrying. Though safety *inside* your child's school is ultimately the responsibility of the principal and school staff, parents can take a few basic steps to ensure a safe school experience, too. These are recommended by the [National Association of Elementary School Principals](#):



- 1. Learn the school's emergency procedures. Emergency plans and phone numbers are usually included in school handbooks and posted in classrooms.** Taking a few extra minutes to familiarize yourself and your child with emergency information can give him the confidence he needs to act quickly in emergency situations.
- 2. Know travel routes to and from the school. Make sure you and your child know both primary and alternate routes. In an emergency, roads can be blocked and it's important to have a backup plan. Know and follow school security and safety measures.** These might include signing in when visiting the school, being escorted when walking through the building, or wearing a visitor pass. Following these procedures also sets a great example for your kids.
- 3. Talk with your child about safety.** Be specific. Talk about instinct and paying attention to funny feelings of fear. Explain what to do if she doesn't feel safe (find a teacher, call 911, etc.). Make sure she knows how to contact you or a trusted neighbor who is likely to be at home.
- 4. Inform school staff about health and emotional concerns.** Whether your child has a food allergy, a physical disability, or has been subject to [bullying](#), make sure to keep your child's teachers and principal [in the loop](#).
- 5. Get involved.** Talk with the principal about what you can do to increase school safety, such as organizing parents to form a neighborhood watch before and after school. Sometimes parent groups are highly successful in making improvements in traffic safety during drop off and pick up times.





Thanks!

Any questions?

You can find me at:

dimitrisapostolou69@gmail.com