

Youth Summit 2019

Topic: School Violence

Main issues around this topic.

(Adult scribes)

- Cyberbullying
- School fights
- Fear of shootings
- Heightened anxiety
- Students talk during lunch of safest place to hide.
- In rural schools, students seem to be less worried, but they shouldn't be.
- Schools are increasing security.
- Students have "normalized" school violence: taking phone videos, posting to social media.

(Youth scribes)

- It starts from bullying.
- People make jokes about bomb threats, bringing in knives, etc.
- Some schools have gang violence and nothing is being done about it.

Resources the students mention for getting help, both informal and formal around this topic.

(Adult scribes)

- Think of small threats as possible big threats.
- More pep rallies, better sense of community.
- Provide a student voice – have restorative justice.
- Counselor involvement with students after fight – engaging with the students after the fights before suspension would be more useful.
- More resources to help with problem solving techniques would help.
- Impact of mental health issues on the violence in school – need more mental health resources.
- How can we educate kids about gun violence?

(Youth scribes)

- Guidance counselors
- Teachers
- Parents
- An adult
- Training for teachers to be able to recognize.
- Get rid of mental health stigma.
- Enforce gun violence policies in schools.
- Need for better background checks for guns.

- Technology needs to be used in a more positive way.
- Student panel that answers questions about emergency plans/systems.
- Teach more than the five signs of depression.

Ways they cope with this issue.

(Adult scribes)

- Talk among friends for support.
- Be more aware of how fellow students are affected by violence.
- In school suspension more effective.
- Keep in mind impact/effect on others when violence does happen; to help them cope.
- How do you confront/be honest with someone you are fearful of – someone who has made threats within the school (and thinks he/she is friends with you).
- Do not engage or “egg it on.”
- Do not post information about it on social media.
- Thoughts/discussions of weapons in school doesn’t faze some of the kids anymore.

(Youth scribes)

- Therapy dogs
- Talk about school violence.
- Have a friend go with you to report something.

What they wish it was like.

(Adult scribes)

- Everyone needs to speak up.
- More social media control needed.
- Want to feel more secure and less stressed.
- Need more of a sense of community in school.
- More compassion needed.
- Involve all students in helping solve issues, especially those less connected.
- Provide education to the students about impact on the threats of violence – impact/cost/downstream effect.
- We could change the culture.
- Wish there were friendly competition versus hate/rivalry
- Safety Drills need to be realistic.

(Youth Scribes)

- Create awareness – talk about it. Talk about suicides in schools.
- People who stand up to help others: see something, say something.
- Learn how to cope without being violent.
- People need to feel safe at school.
- We need a plan for when there is no plan.

Other feedback

