

**The Bill Blackwood
Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas**

**Creating Emotionally Safe and Healthy
Schools by Providing Essential
Learning Climates with Police**

**An Administrative Research Paper
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ABSTRACT

With school violence as a main concern in society today, can we provide a safe and learning environment without having to place fences and armed guards around our educational systems? Police in schools have a very difficult and sensitive position and many times educational goals for a school district versus the goals of the police do not seem to coincide with each other. The truth is, high profile events and headlines have sensationalized and forced communities to address violence levels in our communities and schools, which normally would not involve police.

Parents and community leaders have demanded that schools are made safer and many states are requiring higher educational standards for all students. Educators are required to close the learning gaps between minority groups, reducing the dropout rates, controlling discipline issues, and finding highly qualified teachers and school administrators. With everyone needing so much with so little funding, many communities are reaching a boiling point. In the state of Texas, education will continue to educate 50,000 to 70,000 new students every year. Many of these students will be placed into bi-lingual programs and must enter into English speaking classes around the 2nd or 3rd grade.

The local and state governments have continued to spread very thin resources with the required specialized teachers addressing specialized needs for many students who have drug addictions, mental health issues and at-risk home issues. Texas schools have been pressured for many years to educate bi-lingual and migrant students from Mexico, which can be very costly to the district. Additionally, school districts are struggling with providing a safe climate for their children. Unsafe campuses are having

an adverse effect on learning and causing many heated issues in the varied communities. Safety experts suggest that parents and the community will forgive an educator if their child fails a test, but they are less likely to be forgiving if their child is injured or killed at school.

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INTRODUCTION

All schools and communities are subjected too many challenging behaviors and they always will have a variety of issues. The goals are to reduce serious and unmanageable events, which rips apart schools financially and destroys the trust of the community. How many more dates of infamy will continue to go down in our memory banks? How much more negative history must we make? We have recently added the worst shooting event, in the history of the great United States on April 16th, 2007, being the Virginia Tech Massacre with thirty two beautiful and brilliant students being murder by a mentally deranged mad man with all types of dangerous signs and behaviors to be violent. Many professionals are now aware of what many police departments are faced with on a daily issues with no real solutions or help available because of funding issues, lack of funded mandates and lack of resources. While the events, which occurred at Virginia Tech is a one in a million event, do you or are you prepared to deal with the aftermath of "blood on your hands?" We must do more to educate society and protect the precious lives of all students.

School violence is a serious and ever changing problem among many School Districts across the country. In the year 2000, students ranging in ages between 12 years to 18 years were victims of 1.9 million crimes alone. An additional 128,000 serious, violent crimes happened at school. Results indicate juvenile crime has increased each year and crimes have become more violent. Violent crimes consist of Rape, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Murder and Aggravated Assault (Education Statistics Quarterly, 2002.) Many school districts have had no choice, but to start funding their own Independent School District Police Departments or to enter into elaborate

memorandums of understanding to provide School Resource Officers in their communities to local Middle Schools, Junior High and High schools. Also, with the increase of youth gangs across many communities are dealing with staggering drug use by juveniles and children being raised by single parent homes along with the increase rate in violence in movies and television shows have contributed to many negative factors in the student's lives.

Police Officers also, have become a major factor for the well being of all stakeholders in the community. A comfortable school climate will be a major factor in creating, a safe and healthy school district, where students can excel in the learning process. Police Officers have been faced with many new and many alarming issues over the last decade. We will address many issues and provide the methodology.

The goals and mission of this research paper is to provide, assist and expose safety and educational climate issues faced by law enforcement, district staff and all the stakeholders of the community. The mission will be focused on how law enforcement can help provide alleviations for the common goal in creating a safe and more friendly learning and teaching environment. The author hopes to focus more on alleviations since many experts agree solutions are rare and realistically do not occur in the area of safety. Law enforcement along with school district staff must always be evaluating and adjusting to needs unique to each school district.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Many schools in the United States are relatively safe places for children, youth and the adults who teach and support them. (U.S. Department of Justice and Education, 1999, 2000).

In order to understand the relationship needed between school administration and law enforcement we must look at some of the background in legal issues, what it takes to create safe learning environments and many of the barriers.

Schools must start looking to improve a positive learning environment, establishing and teaching behavior expectations district wide and encouraging a compliance of district wide rules and safety expectations for all campuses. The sustained and effective implementation of the list above will likely create a more positive and responsive school climate to crime and discipline which in turn supports the two main goals of academic achievement and social development. When obtaining these standards, set forth by your goals you very well will lead your school district into a safe school and a high level of achievement for learning.

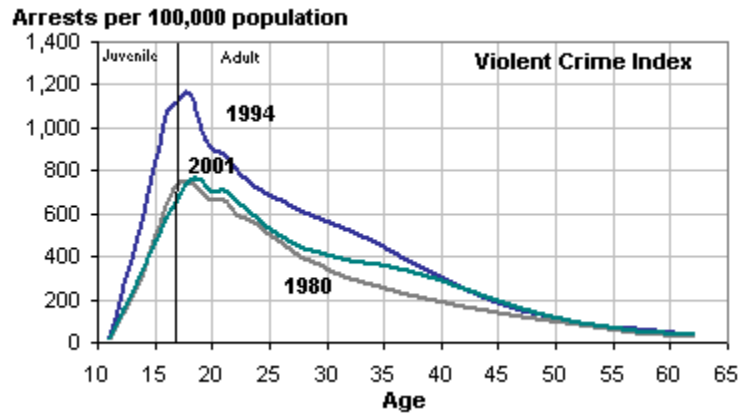
The extent of the challenge varies in intensity and frequency across schools, and, the onset and development of antisocial behavior with a variety of school, community, and family risk factors. Our challenge is to reduce the frequency and intensity of these problems and to sustain our success over time. The social problems noted compete directly with the instructional mission of schools. The result is decreased academic achievement and a lower quality of life for students and staff alike. The national goals list five essential areas in which national performance has declines: (1) reading achievement at 12 grade; (2) Student drug use has increased; (3) sale of

drugs at school in grades 8,10 and 12 has increased; (4) threats and injuries to public school teachers have increased; (5) more teachers are reporting that disruptions in their classroom interfere with their teaching. These undesirable outcomes illustrate the clear link between school climate, school violence, and academic achievement. Without having meaningful reform we can't address and meet the district and national goals. (Safe and Healthy Schools).

Juvenile crime seems as it has increased each year but statically data shows a different view. Research show these numbers could be incorrect and underreporting by schools may be one reason for the decreased number. The reality and public perception is juvenile activity and youth gangs across many communities continue to increase, especially in large school districts. Many young adults and juveniles have staging drug use, many children are being raised more by single parent residences and an increased rate of violence in the movies and on television have contributed too many negative factors in the many juvenile's life.

In 2002 it is estimated over 2.3 million arrests were committed under the age of 18 and juveniles accounted for 17 % of all arrest. Juveniles arrest accounted for 15 % of violent crimes. The growth of violent crime started in the early 80's and peak in 1994 for the next eight years juvenile crime leveled out and juvenile arrest decreased in the major violent index (OJJDP, 2004).

Violent Crime Index arrest rates were higher in 2001 than in 1980 for all adult age groups - for juveniles ages 15-17, 2001 rates were below the rates in 1980.



Note: The Violent Crime Index includes the offenses of murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

The Center for the Prevention of School Violence defines school violence as "any behavior that violates a school's educational mission or climate of respect or jeopardizes the intent of the school to be free of aggression against persons or property, drugs, weapons, disruptions, and disorder" (Center For Prevention Of School Violence).

Even one of the problems listed above is too many and causes a disruption in the learning climate and can lead to distrust by the student and community.

In the past fifteen years the need for law enforcement in schools has become a main stay and necessity for a safe and drug free learning climate. We will become more familiar with the needs of armed police officers when we discuss the rise or lack of violent crimes and drug offenses committed by juveniles and young adults in Texas. Law enforcement and school administrators have closed many gaps between the two,

but we must continue to grow and expand our views for the common goals of success of all students.

The amount of law enforcement and better communication in the last decade has statically reduced the rate of juvenile crime, but the paper will address the reporting rates have also been declined and have been misreported by law enforcement and school officials for many different reasons.

Law enforcement officers who are in schools are faced ethics dilemmas between their duty of the law and the protection of all staff and students. School administrators are faced will creating a learning environment for all to succeed. We will look into the power struggle and different culture of each campus administrator. Many of these believe are misinformed educators who have the lack of understanding and knowledge of the interpretations of laws. In the last ten years campus level administrators have been pressed by many situations into the world of law enforcement. The events of many school shootings such as Columbine, the 9-11 terrorist attacks, Virginia Tech massacre and too many to name events to recall has seriously warped many opinions and views.

Educational research will look into the study and behavior issues created by unsafe feelings and discuss Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs and reflect on the safety factor for learning. Research will be conduct and prove the physiological aspect of the way a child's brain is developed and the need for proper nurturing

The study shows safety is necessary tool in the learning objectives and is easily created by law enforcement in today's schools.

The pyramid listed below shows the importance of the needs of a human child starting from the bottom up. Maslow's theory shows the "security need" is the second most important issue when it comes to the learning needs.

MASLOW'S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS



METHODOLOGY

While statistics seemed to state juvenile crime is decreasing. The lack of proper reporting is a major factor in the statistical rates. Kenneth Trump has provided data, which shows many school district police departments and school officials are not reporting the criminal events to the proper authorities and schools are coding criminal events incorrectly. The reason for the improper reporting varies but pressure lies heavy on school administrator's performance.

In a study completed with 1,100 I.S.D Police officers and School Resource Officers only about 13 percent believed the reports for their police departments and school districts were reported correctly. An over whelming 86 percent of the officers stated school crime was underreported to the proper statistical stats.

NARSO School Resource Officer Survey underreport crimes to Law Enforcement

- 1. 2004 survey: 86%**
- 2. 2003 survey: 87%**
- 3. 2002 survey: 89%**
- 4. 2001 survey: 84%**

The report also made a relevant effort to expose the issue of underreporting crimes to the states caused their districts to be labeled as a “persistently dangerous school.” This federal law implemented by “No child left behind” causing over 54 percent of the officers to state this was one of the main causes for schools for the underreporting to the proper authorities. No Child Left Behind has actually helped create deterrence in the reporting of criminal activities for fear of being labeled unsafe, resulting in loss of funds and students having the ability to transfer to other school districts.

Since being labeled as "persistently dangerous" has serious political and administrative implications for local school administrators, principals will be pressured to underreport and/or non-report school crime and violence.

Houston Texas recently had two large high schools in the same school district go through a very good case study of this example. One school proper reported a sexual assault and a few drug felony charges and was labeled as an unsafe school. While another campus which is known for its gangs, drugs and violent behaviors was listed as a safe school. The data being reported for the two schools left one school unsafe and gives the community a perception of a safe campus. While the other campus who clearly was reporting the events correctly and addressing the true problems was listed as a unsafe school. This school and principal's integrity was damaged in the eye of the public but is clearly the safest school between the two campuses. The system creates the unwillingness to report crimes to the proper authorizes.

School-Related Violent Death Summary Data

School Year	Total Deaths
2006-2007 (From 8/1/06 to present)	31
2005-2006	27
2004-2005	39
2003-2004	49
2002-2003	16
2001-2002	17
2000-2001	31
1999-2000	33
Total:	241

School-Related Violent Deaths:

Method of Death Breakdown

		06- 07	05- 06	04- 05	03- 04	02- 03	01- 02	00- 01	99- 00
Method	Total								
Shooting	106	12	15	24	23	3	5	14	10
Suicide	40	6	1	4	5	6	3	8	8
Murder-Suicide	34	8	4	2	6	2	6	2	4
Fighting	13	1	0	2	4	0	1	1	4
Stabbing	33	4	3	6	10	4	1	3	3
Other	15	0	4	1	1	1	1	3	4

Federal statistics grossly underestimate the extent of school crime and violence. Public perception tends to overstate school crime and violence. Reality exists somewhere in between, but statistically, nobody knows exactly where this "somewhere" is in numbers because there is no federal mandatory K-12 school crime reporting and tracking law in the United States.

Federal crime reporting requirements were established for colleges and universities in 1990 under the "Crime Awareness and Campus Security Act of 1990," later formally named the Clery Act. No such federal law exists for K-12 schools. And there is no indication that anyone in Congress or the education community plans to create such crime reporting requirements for our nations elementary and secondary schools.

It is also important to understand that the lack of a federal mandatory school crime reporting and tracking law for K-12 schools means that on a national level, no one actually knows in real numbers how many crimes occur on K-12 school campuses nationwide. School crime and violence statistics put out by the federal government, such as their "Indicators of School Crime and Safety" reports, are based upon self-report surveys and other limited academic surveys and research --- not actual reported school crimes in K-12 schools throughout the United States. Unlike the FBI, which collects Uniform Crime Reports based upon actual reported crimes to law enforcement, federal education reports are based only on limited academic research surveys, not a comprehensive collection of actual reported crimes to law enforcement nationwide.

Furthermore, even the federal surveys are outdated and questionable in content. The fed's 2004 report on the "Indicators of School Crime" only cited survey data as

recent as around 2000 to preliminary data in 2002. Even the number of school-associated violent deaths was not up-to-date.

It is ironic that at a private consulting firm we can have more accurate and current counts on school-associated violent deaths than a federal agency which spends millions and billions a year to function. We also find it odd that our school death stats show a spike in the 2003-2004 and 2004-2005 school years, while the federal government is simultaneously telling the American public that school crime has dramatically declined. (Trump, 2005).

State school crime reporting requirements vary and lack enforcement a number of states created legislation following the spate of national school shootings in the late 1990s to require local school districts to report school crimes to state departments of education and/or other state authorities. The specific requirements vary state to state and the quality of reporting to states by local districts has repeatedly come into question.

The problem with state school crime reporting requirements is simply that there are few, if any, rewards for schools that accurately report crimes and no meaningful consequences for those that fail to do so. In general there is no real auditing or enforcement. Even in cases where local daily newspapers have investigated and identified gross inaccuracies in local school district crime reports to states and to police, most school districts are quick to claim "clerical errors" or a "lack of understanding of the law and guidelines" for reporting --- and nobody is ever significantly held accountable with substantive consequences.

School crimes are underreported to police, states, and to the public there are countless documented examples of serious school crime and serious incident underreporting, non-reporting, and delayed reporting across the United States (Trump, 2005).

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■ A February 22, 2007, New York Post story reported on a survey report released by a city public advocate claiming that the city's education department was grossly under-reporting the number of school safety incidents. The story says the education department claimed just eight schools experienced 180 or more incidents (crimes or non-criminal disturbance), yet the advocate's survey found that 18 of 158 principals and administrators surveyed said they handled more than 180 incidents over the period of the 2004-05 school year. There are about 1,450 schools in the system, according to the story.

■ A February 22, 2007, Associated Press story from Columbia, SC, reported on a high school principal being charged for hindering the investigation of a cheerleading coach who allegedly gave students beer. Police said that after telling the principal the police planned to talk with each cheerleader, the principal allegedly called a squad meeting of the cheerleaders and told them not to talk with anyone. Deputies giving alcohol to students but did not report the information to authorities, according to police quoted in the story.

■ A February 7, 2007, Associated Press story from Allentown, Pennsylvania, reported on a \$15 million federal lawsuit against the school district for allegedly not calling police and removing a 12-year-old elementary school student who they allegedly knew had been accused of sexually assaulting a first grade boy in a bathroom stall, and who subsequently assaulted three more first graders after being allowed to stay in class. School officials reportedly denied any wrongdoing, although they were said to have not disputed the actual sexual assaults.

■ A September 20, 2006, Washington Post story reported on a 77-page report released by the Montgomery County, MD, Council's Office of Legislative Oversight indicating that although the county's school district has tracked school incidents since 1973, offense figures are not released publicly and the information is not detailed enough to allow school officials to identify trends. The report recommended that school, police, and state's attorney's office create guidelines for what types of incidents must be reported to authorities.

■ A September 3, 2006, Philadelphia Inquirer story reported on questionable school crime and violence data in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Philadelphia only reported one incident of theft to the state for 2004-05, but listed more than 1,000 in its own annual district report in which it claimed a 99% decline in school violence during 2003-04 and 2004-05, according to the story. No vandalism or disorderly conduct was reported to the state, yet the districts own report listed more than 4,300 incidents, the story said. Almost three-quarters of all Pennsylvania districts reported no incidents of bullying during 2004-05 school year, about half reported no student disorderly conduct,

and just over half listed fewer than five fighting incidents. In New Jersey, more than 21% of all school district entities reported no violence including assaults, fighting, and other serious offenses. A little under half said there were either one or no vandalism incidents during the school year. Numerous other discrepancies and/or questionable data were also reported in the story.

■ An August 28, 2006, story in the Camden (NJ) Courier-Post questioned the accuracy of Camden School District state reports on school violence, in which the district reportedly claimed a 99% decline in school violence during 2003-2004 and 2004-2005. The incidents reportedly dropped from 976 in 2002-2003 to 222 in 2003-2004 and 13 in 2004-2005. The state's school report card was said to show one expulsion in 2003-2004 and one in 2004-2005, yet district legal invoices showed the Board convened at least six expulsion hearing meetings involving 21 different students during the two years.

An August 9, 2006, story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported on a Fayette County high school incident where school officials reportedly knew about a student who allegedly planned to bring weapons the first day of school, but failed to act on it prior to the opening of school. The 17-year-old was arrested on the first day of school, August 7th, after he was found to have a 4-inch switchblade in school. A search of his car in the school parking lot found two rifles, two handguns, ammunition and a black, ninja-type outfit with mask, gloves, and a sword. School officials reportedly claimed they were dealing with unsubstantiated information and decided to wait until the opening of school.

■An August 8, 2006, story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution documented significant discrepancies and questions surrounding the accuracy and consistency of school discipline incident reports by local districts to state education officials.

■A June 2, 2006, Kansas City Star story reported that the Johnson County District Attorney issued a warning letter to Shawnee Mission School District advising the district to do a better job reporting crimes to authorities after two incidents allegedly went unreported to police. One incident involved a reported student threat to kill a teacher. A month prior, the District Attorney's office filed charges against an elementary school nurse for failing to report child abuse.

■A May 23, 2006, story in The Times Union from Albany, New York, reported on a press conference the day before by New York State Comptroller, Alan Hevesi, blamed local school administrators and NY State Department of Education for underreporting and covering up school crimes. Hevesi referred to the situation as a "widespread cover-up" according to the article. The auditors reviewed records of 17 high schools from 15 school districts. In Albany High School, officials reported 144 incidents to the state office, but auditors found 924 violent or disruptive incidents during the 2003-04 school year, according to the story. The Times Union story reported on other findings including: at least 10 schools failed to report incidents in which weapons were involved; schools were allowed to revise their reports with little documentation; and more than 2,300 schools submitted their reports late. A few school officials said they were underreporting because they assumed that neighboring districts were doing the same and they didn't want to look bad, the story cited Hevesi as saying.

■A January 5, 2006, Indianapolis Star story reported that an exclusive private school expelled a 16-year-old after school officials allegedly found a 9mm Glock loaded with 17 rounds and other loaded magazine in the boy's sport utility vehicle on campus. Another male student, age 17, was reportedly suspended in connection with the incident. Police reports were said to indicate that the students were sent home before police arrived and that the headmaster of the school called the school attorney before calling police, "to find out what procedure I should take."

■A December 7, 2005, story in the Denver Post documented serious discrepancies in state school accountability reports on school crime and violence reporting. In one case, a high school that reported no fights or assaults for the entire school year actually had a student stabbed to death in an altercation in the school's cafeteria. The state's largest school district reported a drop in fights and assaults from 644 in one year to zero (0) in this reporting year.

■An August 26, 2005, story in the Atlanta Journal Constitution highlighted a federal audit citing three Georgia school districts as underreporting school crimes required to be reported under the "persistently dangerous school" law requirement. The report identified incidents including felony drug and weapons offenses, a terroristic threat and an aggravated battery that were not included on the systems' reports. The report claims that one district failed to report 28 misdemeanor drug incidents and three felony drug incidents.

■A story in the August 10, 2005, edition of The Augusta Chronicle in Augusta, Georgia, reported on an alleged school shooting incident on May 5, 2005, at the Augusta Preparatory Day School which was not reported to the county sheriff's department.

A June of 2005 report in the Denver Post documented serious discrepancies in information such as the number of students caught with dangerous weapons or drugs, the number expelled or suspended for the offenses, and how often police were notified, in annual School Accountability Reports to parents. The story states that although 454 schools reported at least one dangerous-weapon incident last year, just two in five told education officials that they had reported the incidents to police, as required by state law. A total of 234 of incidents appear in Department of Education records to have ignored state law by not expelling the violators, according to the report.

■A June 28, 2005, Education Daily article reported on an audit of Texas, Iowa, and Georgia by the U.S. Department of Education's Inspector General which found that states continue to underreport violent school incidents, supply inaccurate data, and fail to adequately oversee local implementation of federal requirements for reporting school crimes. The findings mirror an earlier similar report on California, the story said.

■In March of 2005, in Columbus, Ohio, administrators at one high school attracted national attention for allegedly not reporting to police a sexual attack on a female student which had occurred on an auditorium stage and for one administrator allegedly attempting to discourage the victim's father from calling police out of fear it would generate media attention. Criminal charges for failing to report the crime were later

made against the principal, who was terminated by the district according to media reports. The principal was later cleared of the criminal charges.

■ In April of 2003, the Atlanta Journal Constitution reported that the state's largest school district (Gwinnett County) failed to report over 24,000 serious incidents, including fights, thefts and drug, sex and weapons offenses, to the state as required by state law. In May of 2003, the same newspaper reported that 40 of Atlanta's 91 schools failed to report any discipline data to the state.

■ A series of reports from May - September of 2003 in The Roanoke Times documented police concerns of school crime underreporting and the transfer of a school resource officer from a school after he acknowledged telling a reporter that he had concerns that school crimes were not being reported to police. Other internal police memos obtained by the paper documented similar concerns.

■ In July of 2002, The Press of Atlantic City reported that more than 130 incidents from across 12 schools were not reported to the state in the 2000-2001 state reports on violence and vandalism. Incidents not reported included incidents involving assaults with injuries requiring hospital trips, a weapon, vandalism, and multiple involving arrests.

These are the shooting incidents reported for the years 2006-2007. There are many other shootings which are not classified or reported as a school shooting but are still happening in today's communities. These could very well be considered a school related shooting, since many have occurred across the street from a school, but city

agencies have handled these shootings quietly and quickly in their communities to reduce media backlash.)

In August 14, 2006: Moreno Valley, CA., a 25-year-old security guard was found shot to death around 6:15pm at an elementary school which he had been hired to guard from vandals and taggers. No students were at the school as the incident occurred during summer break.

In August 17, 2006: Austin, TX, a 21-year-old male was shot and killed in middle school parking lot in what police believed to be a gang-related dispute. The incident occurred during evening hours as a group of youth were preparing for a Quinceañera, a 15th birthday party celebration. A 20-year-old and a 17-year-old were subsequently arrested.

August 25, 2006: Essex, VT, A 27-year-old male shot and killed a 56-year-old second-grade teacher in her elementary school classroom. The male was looking for his ex-girlfriend, who also is a teacher at the school, who had reportedly broken up with her the night before the incident. A 52-year-old female first-grade teacher was also shot through a window. The suspect also had reportedly shot and killed his ex-girlfriend's mother, age 57. The 39 staff in the building reportedly moved to lock down the school.

September 13, 2006: Van Nuys, CA, A 16-year-old male high school student was shot and killed across the street from his high school around 3:40pm, a half hour after classes let out, in what police believed is a gang-related shooting.

September 27, 2006: Bailey, CO, A 53-year-old male gunman took six female high school students hostage, molesting them all and using them as shields throughout the afternoon. After releasing some hostages, the male shot at SWAT officers as they

entered the classroom, and then shot a 16-year-old female hostage who later died from her wounds. The suspect shot himself with one round to commit suicide as SWAT officers who were entering the room also shot him three times.

September 29, 2006: Cazenovia, WI, A 15-year-old male student shot the principal of his Pre-K through 12 schools after walking into the school with a shotgun and a handgun taken from his family's gun cabinet, according to reports. The male reportedly was confronted by the school's custodian, teachers, and students who tried to wrestle the gun away from him. The custodian said the male was a special education student who said he was there to kill someone. When confronted by the school's 49-year-old principal, the teen shot the principal in the head, chest, and leg. After being shot, the principal wrestled the male to the ground and swept the gun away. The principal died at the hospital several hours later. The teen reportedly had been harassed by other students and believed that teachers and the principal were not doing anything about it. The teen was said to have told another student that the principal "would not make it through homecoming." The teen was in police custody and will be charged as an adult.

October 2, 2006: Nickel Mines, PA, A 32-year-old male shot 10 girls, aged 6 to 13, killing five of them and then committing suicide in a one-classroom rural Amish school.

October 17, 2006: Katy, TX, A 16-year-old male high school sophomore committed suicide by shooting himself with a handgun in the school's cafeteria courtyard.

October 19, 2006: Orlando, FL, A 15-year-old male high school student was stabbed with a 3 to 3 and 1/2 inch knife with a serrated edge by another 17-year-old male student at the school, according to reports. The incident happened on the east side of the school near the sidewalk in the area of the school buses, reports said. The two males fought and the victim was stabbed during the fight, after which he was transported to the hospital where he subsequently died. Students reported the two males might have had a conflict over a girl.

October 31, 2006: Knoxville, TN, A 39-year-old male school security officer was shot and killed around 10:20pm in his high school's parking lot while assigned to patrol the school to prevent Halloween vandalism. A 39-year-old suspect was arrested after a police pursuit of the suspect who stole the victim's car. The suspect claimed he was a homeless man from Virginia, but police reported he was from Galax and may have pending charges for another murder. School officials reported that the officer was a very close member of the school "family" and connected well with students at the high school, who were torn by his loss. Grief counselors were to be on hand the next day at the school.

November 1, 2007: Fresno, CA, A 13-year-old male middle school student died as a result of an after-school fight in a parking lot near the school. The incident reportedly stemmed from an ongoing conflict with a 14-year-old male student who was fighting with him. The victim was knocked to the ground and then hit afterwards, and the assailant left. The 13-year-old later died from the injuries.

November 29, 2006: Houston, TX, A 16-year-old male high school student was shot to death behind the school while walking to school in the morning. Reports indicated the incident was believed to be gang-related.

December 12, 2006: Springfield Township, PA, A 16-year-old male high school shot and killed himself with an AK-47 in the hallway of his high school. The student, reportedly despondent over his grades, had the gun concealed in a camouflage duffle bag and fired one round in the ceiling to warn other students to get out of the way before committing suicide.

January 3, 2007: Tacoma, WA, An 18-year-old male high school student was arrested for shooting and killing a 17-year-old male student at their school. The suspect allegedly shot the victim in the face and then stood over him, firing twice more.

January 19, 2007: Sudbury, MA, A 15-year-old male high school student was stabbed to death by a 16-year-old male student in the hallway of their high school. The two reportedly got into a fight in a restroom, which spilled out, in the hallway, at which time the suspect stabbed the victim twice with a long knife, once in the abdomen and once in the heart.

January 26, 2007: Los Angeles, CA, An 18-year-old male was shot in the upper body three times and died while playing basketball in a middle school gym around 5:50pm. Police were seeking three suspects who fled after the shooting. The identity of the victim and his association with the school was not immediately identified. Dozens of people were present but not injured, according to reports.

February 8, 2007: Prineville, OR, An 18-year-old male high school student committed suicide with a gunshot wound to the head in the high school's parking lot. He was found by a student around 2:30pm.

February 17, 2007: Flint, MI, A 26-year-old male was shot in the head in a parking lot of an elementary school where he was visiting for an adult basketball league that rents the gym. The male later died. Police arrested three people.

February 26, 2007: St. Louis, MO, A 15-year-old male high school student was killed and a 16-year-old male student shot outside the home of an 18-year-old student in the afternoon following an altercation that began earlier in the day at their high school. A crowd gathered outside the home to watch a fight and the 18-year-old stood in the door with a baseball bat, according to reports. After rocks and rolled newspapers were thrown at the house, the 18-year-old reappeared with a rifle and his 51-year-old mother with a handgun, and both opened fire. The 15-year-old was killed and the 16-year-old was injured. Counselors and additional security measures were put in place at the school for the following days.

March 7, 2007: Greenville, TX, A 16-year-old male high school student fatally shot himself while in the band hallway area of the school around 7:15am. No other students were injured. More than 100 parents rushed to the school to remove their students.

March 7, 2007: Midland, MI, A 17-year-old male non-student shot a 17-year-old female student four times and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide in her high school's parking lot. The female was reportedly an ex-girlfriend of the male. Reports indicate the male drove to the school to talk with the female but was turned

away by school officials, after which he called her out to the parking lot to talk with him. He pulled a gun and shot her four times, which was witnessed by the girl's mother who was in her car and drove between them. The female was taken to the hospital and reported to be in serious, but stable, condition.

March 23, 2007: Los Angeles, CA, A 17-year-old male high school student was stabbed to death during a fight outside the school's gym with three other males around 3:00pm. The suspects were reportedly 16 to 17 years old.

April 18, 2007: Huntersville, NC, A 16-year-old male high school student made threatened two high school students with a gun in their school's parking lot and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide, when police subsequently approached him in a nearby gas station. Police alerted four schools in the area, which went into lockdown. Counselors were made available at the school upon students' return.

A sample of school-related shootings occurring nationwide in the 2006-2007 school year not resulting in death is listed below. It should be noted that this is only a sample and is not intended to include all of the many incidents involving firearms confiscated but not used, and other weapons possession or use that occur in U.S. schools. List includes individuals shot but not killed and firearms discharged in schools, on school campuses and buses, at school-sponsored events, to and from school involving students, and as a clear result of school-related incidents/conflicts.

The list below is the 2006-2007 total non-death shooting incidents listed to date across America's schools:

August 15, 2006: Vine Grove, KY, A 13-year-old male middle school student brought a semi-automatic handgun to school and it accidentally fired while he was showing it off in the classroom. No one was injured.

August 20, 2006: Durham, NC, A male shot out the door glass at an elementary school and walked around the building with a 12-gauge shotgun balanced on his shoulder while the school was closed on a Sunday. The 43-year-old male suspect was subsequently arrested later in the week.

August 25, 2006: Essex, VT, A 52-year-old female first-grade teacher was shot through a window by a 27-year-old male who was looking for his ex-girlfriend who also taught at the school.

August 28, 2006: Richmond, CA, Two shots were fired into an elementary school classroom where students were taking a test during the first day of school around 12:30pm, with one round going through a wall and into a playground where about 280 students were at recess. No one was injured. The shots reportedly came from a car that was chasing another car in the neighborhood.

August 29, 2006: Washington, DC, A 16-year-old male student was arrested for firing a shot in a high school parking lot as students were being released. No one was injured. The suspect was arrested shortly thereafter following a chase by officers assigned to the school. The incident reportedly stemmed from a scuffle earlier in the day.

August 30, 2006: Hillsborough, NC, A 19-year-old was arrested outside of a high school after firing 8 shots at the school, injuring two students, around 1:00pm. The male was reportedly firing two guns. He was later charged with killing his father earlier

in the day. The van he drove to the school contained ammunition, weapons, and homemade pipe bombs, according to reports.

September 7, 2006: Memphis, TN, A teen's hand was grazed by a bullet when three shots were fired from a crowd of spectators during an evening junior high football game. Three suspects were later arrested.

September 7, 2006: Pittsburgh, PA, A bullet struck the door of a van carrying four students to the school district's special education center around 7:15am. No one was injured.

September 8, 2006: Ft. Worth, TX, A 21-year veteran police officer assigned to a high school reportedly discharged his firearm at least one time after approaching a group of individuals, some believed to be gang members, in a fight just outside of the school around 1:20pm. The officer and a school monitor reportedly approached the group and individuals became irate, assaulting the officer as he attempted to detain one of the individuals. One 16-year-old male was said to have been shot in the chest.

September 8, 2006: North Las Vegas, NV, A 16-year-old was arrested for opening fire into a crowd in the parking lot during a high school football game. A group of about 15 individuals left the game after a fight in the stands and the male reportedly fired six shots in the air as they were walking in that area.

September 12, 2006: Irvington, NJ, Two students were shot and received minor injuries walking down a street nearby their high school after classes let out for the day. A third person, who was involved in the argument in which the shots were fired, was seriously injured.

September 13, 2006: Creve Coeur, MO, Police shot and wounded a student in the parking lot of a Christian school around 3:45pm after the male pointed a "long gun" at himself and then turned it on police during attempted negotiations.

September 13, 2006: St. Cloud, MN, A 21-year-old male was arrested for firing as many as 10 rounds from an air rifle in the air in a junior high school field around 8:00am. The male, and another 21-year-old who was arrested for driving him to the school, were apprehended by police. No students were in the area of the field at the time of the incident. The male was reportedly intoxicated and claimed he was shooting at geese.

September 15, 2006: Laurel, MS, Two people were arrested in connection with an incident where occupants of one car shot at occupants of another car after a high school dance following a football game. No one was injured.

September 20, 2006: Albany, GA, Two teens, ages 17 and 18, were shot while walking home from school. One was shot in the back and the other was shot in the arm. Police were investigating the possibility of the incident being gang-related.

September 21, 2006: Las Vegas, NV, School police arrested two 17-year-olds in connection with a gang-related shooting at a school bus. The bus driver stopped to drop off students around 2:45pm and one got off the bus, and then fired three rounds at the back of the bus after getting off. None of the 34 students on board were injured.

September 21, 2006: Washington, DC, A 17-year-old male high school student was arrested for shooting a 16-year-old student outside of their high school. The victim had left school around 12:15pm for lunch and was allegedly shot by the suspect as he walked down the street with several friends. The victim, who played on the school's basketball team with the suspect, was shot once in the lower right leg. Police believe the incident was over a girl.

September 27, 2006: Boston, MA, A group of teens fired multiple rounds from a high-powered shotgun at three students as they walked to their high school around 7:40am. The incident stemmed from a conflict between two groups of teens from different neighborhoods the night before. No one was injured, but the school was locked down and metal detectors and extra police were brought in the next day.

October 5, 2006: Cleveland Heights, OH, A high school male teen was shot by an 18-year-old male when the victim refused to give up his money at a concession stand during a high school volleyball game.

October 5, 2006: Grand Rapids, MI, A 10th-grade male high school student was arrested after accidentally discharging a gun in a restroom stall. The school was locked down for two hours.

October 9, 2006: Joplin, MO, A 13-year-old middle school student wearing a ski-mask fired one round from a Mac-90, a replica of an AK-47, assault rifle into the ceiling of the school's entranceway after confronting students and administrators. He left the area after his weapon jammed. The male's backpack reportedly contained military manuals, instructions on assembling homemade explosives, and detailed drawings of the school.

October 12, 2006: Baltimore, MD, An 8-year-old third-grader accidentally discharged a .22-caliber gun when handling the gun that another 8-year-old classmate had left in his desk. The gun discharged. About 20 students were in the room, but no one was injured.

October 27, 2006: Las Cruces, NM, A 14-year-old male was shot in the leg during a high school football game. The shot reportedly came from four males in the parking lot near the stands where the victim was shot. Police believe the incident was gang-related.

November 5, 2006: Akron, OH, A 16-year-old was shot in the leg outside of a high school where a cheerleading and football awards ceremony was being held. Officers working the event responded after hearing six or seven gunshots where they found the shot 16-year-old and bullet holes in two cars.

December 7, 2006: Omaha, NE, A 17-year-old male high school student received injuries to his thigh and finger when a gun in his pocket accidentally discharged during class.

December 12, 2006: Dallas, TX, Three male teens were arrested after four rounds were fired from a gun on an elementary school playground around 5:30pm, after which the males then went to a park about 500 feet away and fired again. The males, two age 14 and one age 15, were reportedly drunk and high on marijuana. One allegedly had a bag so stuffed with marijuana that it would not close. One was reportedly in a gang.

January 2, 2007: Fayetteville, NC, Three shots were fired toward a high school, striking a vehicle with three people in it as it left the high school around 3:00pm at

dismissal. No one was injured. The bullet lodged inside the car. A 14-year-old was later arrested.

January 8, 2007: Cincinnati, OH, A 16-year-old, ninth-grade male high school student was arrested after pulling a gun in the school's cafeteria and firing two rounds into a hallway outside the cafeteria after an assistant principal tried to get the gun away from him. No one was injured. The male was apprehended and arrested a couple hours later.

January 9, 2007: Las Vegas, NV, Two high school students were shot following a road rage incident outside a high school. The students got into a verbal confrontation with the alleged shooter outside a convenience store around 6:30am, after which the students headed to the school. The suspect reportedly followed them there and fired at them.

January 18, 2007: Philadelphia, PA, A 17-year-old male high school student was shot in the legs and buttocks outside of his high school around 8:20am. Police recovered a .45-caliber gun from the crime scene. Police believe the incident was gang-related. The school was put into lockdown after the incident.

January 24, 2007: Savannah, TN, A 17-year-old male high school student shot himself with a .25-caliber gun in a school restroom. The male was transported to the hospital where he was in critical condition.

January 31, 2007: Country Club Hills, IL, Two suspects were arrested after shots were fired in the air and then a 15-year-old student was randomly shot outside of a high school basketball game where fights broke out following the game.

February 8, 2007: St. Louis, MO, Shots were fired outside a high school while a basketball game was going on inside around 7:15pm. A male later entered a city hospital with a gunshot wound. Police believe the two incidents were related.

February 15, 2007: Florissant, MO, A 19-year-old male was allegedly shot in the hand and groin by a 17-year-old male outside a high school in a crowded parking lot following a basketball game around 8:15pm. The victim reportedly had attended the game while the suspect had not, and neither were students at the school where the incident occurred. The two reportedly had been involved in an ongoing dispute.

February 20, 2007: Cleveland, OH, Two teens were shot outside of a city high school after a fight in the school spilled over to the outside of the school and down the street. A 15-year-old female high school student was shot in the shoulder and an 18-year-old male picking up another student was shot in the thigh around 2:15pm. Police arrested a 17-year-old male student as a suspect the next day after reviewing school video camera recordings and interviewing witnesses.

February 21, 2007: Whittier, CA, A 17-year-old male was arrested in connection with the shooting of a 16-year-old male high school student just before he boarded a school bus on the way to school around 7:30am. The victim reportedly was shot and still walked on the bus, calmly asking students on the bus if he had been shot. Police indicated the suspect may have been a gang member. The victim was shot in the back and arm with shotgun pellets. A shotgun was found in the home of the suspect. The victim reportedly did not cooperate with police and would not tell them where he got shot.

February 22, 2007: Jacksonville, FL, Six teens were ejected from a middle school basketball game following a fight and shots were subsequently fired in the school's parking lot. Police apprehended two of the suspects following the incident and were seeking a third teen. Most were reportedly students from the school. Police said they do believe the teen who fired the shot also had the gun in the school earlier in the day.

February 22, 2007: La Joya, TX, A 12-year-old sixth-grader was taken into police custody in connection with firing a shot from a .38-caliber handgun from a school bus on the way home. The student reportedly was showing the gun to other students, they passed it around, and the suspect pointed it out the window and fired. No one was injured.

February 26, 2007: St. Louis, MO, A 15-year-old male high school student was killed and a 16-year-old male student shot outside the home of an 18-year-old student in the afternoon following an altercation that began earlier in the day at their high school. A crowd gathered outside the home to watch a fight and the 18-year-old stood in the door with a baseball bat, according to reports. After rocks and rolled newspapers were thrown at the house, the 18-year-old reappeared with a rifle and his 51-year-old mother with a handgun, and both opened fire. The 15-year-old was killed and the 16-year-old was injured. Counselors and additional security measures were put in place at the school for the following days.

February 28, 2007: Pittsburgh, PA, Two teens exchanged gunfire in front of a city high school around 2:30pm as hundreds of students dismissed out of the school. A school police officer, also on-site, gave chase and arrested one suspect in a nearby residential neighborhood, and recovered one gun. No one was injured.

March 1, 2007: Hartford, CT, An elementary school was locked down due to gunfire from one group of high school students chasing another group, according to reports. The individuals being chased and fired upon were let into the elementary school by one of the school's teachers. The suspects then fled and were being sought by police. No injuries were reported. The incident was later determined to stem from a racial conflict between African-American and Hispanic students at the high school.

March 6, 2007: Lake Worth, FL, Two students, ages 16 and 17, and one adult non-student, age 20, were shot in a suspected gang-related incident on a nearby street from the high school as school dismissed. Two car loads of individuals allegedly bailed out and started fighting, during which time the shooting occurred. Police believe the incident was retaliation for three gang-related fights over the weekend.

March 7, 2007: Midland, MI, A 17-year-old male non-student shot a 17-year-old female student four times and then turned the gun on himself, committing suicide in her high school's parking lot. The female was reportedly an ex-girlfriend of the male. Reports indicate the male drove to the school to talk with the female but was turned away by school officials, after which he called her out to the parking lot to talk with him. He pulled a gun and shot her four times, which was witnessed by the girl's mother who was in her car and drove between them. The female was taken to the hospital and reported to be in serious, but stable, condition.

March 7, 2007: Compton, CA, A male high school junior was struck in the elbow by a bullet after several shots were fired in an outdoors eating area during an altercation between a group of non-students and a group of students. The incident happened about an hour after regular classes dismissed early due to an unrelated early dismissal.

March 8, 2007: Chattanooga, TN, A 62-year-old male former custodian shot himself after entering a high school and arguing with a current custodian. Police believe the male entered the school through a back door, argued with the current custodial staff member, and then shot himself. The incident happened around 3:30pm, about an hour after students had been dismissed for the day.

March 9, 2007: Bridgeport, CT, A 14-year-old freshman and a 19-year-old junior high school student were shot outside of the school. Both students were hospitalized. The school had metal detector searches the following Monday and counselors were on hand for students with concerns.

March 9, 2007: Chicago, IL, Two 16-year-old males were arrested after one fired a shot at the other in a conflict in back of the school. The group fired upon ran into the building where security personnel helped them get in the school safely. Police said the incident was gang-related.

March 14, 2007: San Francisco, CA, Shots were fired less than a block away from a city alternative school minutes after the school dismissed. No one was reported injured. Security was increased at the school for the rest of the week. School officials did not know if students were involved in the shooting at the time of the report.

March 15, 2007: Columbia, SC, An 11-year-old male school student from a school for disciplinary behavior problem students fired a gun into the ceiling of a school bus. He and a 14-year-old female whose locker the gun was subsequently found in were arrested. No one was injured.

March 15, 2007: Jersey City, NJ, A 15-year-old male high school student was arrested after firing a gun into a crowd during a large fight on the street outside the school around 12:15pm. Police provided additional attention at dismissal to prevent groups from congregating and further conflicts.

March 22, 2007: Chicago, IL, Two males, both age 16, were shot while in the parking lot of their vocational career school following a driver's education class around 3:30pm. One student was shot in the buttocks and the other was shot in the thigh.

March 27, 2007: Hartford, CT, A teen was shot in the leg on an elementary school playground around 6:30pm while students from an after-school basketball game were still inside the gym. The incident followed a brick-throwing incident earlier in the evening.

March 29, 2007: Myrtle Beach, SC, An 18-year-old male high school basketball and football team member was shot in the leg when a gun he was carrying in his pocket discharged while he was in class. No other students were injured. The school was locked down and about 100 parents arrived to pick up their children.

April 10, 2007: Gresham, OR, Ten high school students were injured when gunshots from a rifle shattered a classroom window. A student who attended the school was later arrested and the rifle was found in a nearby field. Two students were treated at the hospital and eight others at the school.

April 10, 2007: Chicago, IL, Two high school males, ages 14 and 15, were shot when a 9mm handgun they were passing around accidentally discharged in the back of their science class. One male was shot in the thigh and the other near the knee.

April 23, 2007: Indianapolis, IN, An 18-year-old male was shot in the thigh just behind the school athletic fields after school. A 22-year-old male was arrested after a car and foot chase, and a handgun was recovered. The incident followed a fight outside a school.

Listed below are another example of many other important reported incidents for the 2006-2007 school year:

August 11, 2006: Paragould, AR, A 15-year-old was taken into custody and later admitted for psychological evaluation for allegedly plotting a school shooting. Weapons belonging to the parents were removed from the child's home for safety reasons.

August 15, 2006: Columbia, SC, Eighteen individuals, including four U.S. Marines (three age 20, one age 22) were arrested in what was reported as a gang meeting at a closed school where they were allegedly planning an attack at a Friday evening high school football game.

August 15, 2006: La Puente, CA, A 62-year-old male school police officer was struck in the head with a baseball bat by a teenager and received a serious injury to his eye while responding to an elementary school alarm. The officer came upon a group of five teenagers after hearing glass being broke in a room.

August 16, 2006: Dallas County, TX, A 9-year-old elementary school student took home a metal can with dark powder instead which was found to be an explosive. The male reportedly had been given it by another student. Police detonated the can.

August 18, 2006: Ellijay, GA, A female elementary school custodian reported being sexually assaulted and stabbed after being accosted by a male suspect while opening the school at 6:00am. She claimed the male forced her inside the school at knifepoint, sexually assaulted her, and stabbed her three times. Schools were closed. The female later admitted to lying about the incident.

August 21, 2006: Louisville, KY, A middle school female school security officer was taken to the hospital after a surprise attack in the hallway by a sixth-grade female who pushed her against the wall where the officer hit her head, fell to the ground, and continued to be attacked by the student.

August 22, 2006: North Miami Beach, FL, A 10th-grader was allegedly stabbed in the shoulder blade by a 12th grader during a morning altercation at their high school. The victim was taken to the hospital.

August 24, 2006: Albuquerque, NM, A lunchtime fight at a high school ended with 14 students arrested in what school officials later called a gang-related incident. The fight reportedly started with two girls from different gangs fighting over a boy, and then boys jumped into the brawl. Police sprayed pepper spray to break up the fight.

August 24, 2006: Round Rock, TX, About 30 police officers responded to a high school brawl outside the school's cafeteria around 2:30pm. Police reportedly used pepper spray during the incident. Multiple arrests were made.

August 28, 2006: Memphis, TN, A total of 24 students were arrested after a fight over a girl grew out of control at a high school. Officers at the school eventually had to use pepper spray.

August 29, 2006: Augusta, GA, A fight on a school bus between two girls, ages 15 and 16, resulted in the 16-year-old stabbing the 15-year-old seven times.

August 31, 2006: Thornton, CO, A 15-year-old male student allegedly stabbed at 16-year-old male student on the west side of their high school campus around 2:00pm. The victim was stabbed once in the stomach.

September 1, 2006: Rochester, NH, A 16-year-old male high school student was stabbed in the arm by another male on a playground adjacent to his high school around 2:00pm.

September 5, 2006: Carpentersville, IL, At least three schools were put in lockdown after a 16-year-old claimed another male, age 17, fired at least two shots at him around 8:15am out in the community.

September 5, 2006: Pritchard, AL, A female high school student chased a male high school student into a restroom and stabbed him in the chest after the two "had words," according to the school district's superintendent. The incident occurred about 15 minutes after school dismissal. The two were reportedly boyfriend and girlfriend.

September 6, 2006: Annapolis, MD, Four fights broke out over a two-day period in a high school, leading to the arrests of 18 students. Fights reportedly occurred because the participants were from "different neighborhoods" according to police, and the principal said he did not believe they were involved in gangs.

September 8, 2006: Wichita, KS, Six juveniles were taken into custody at a high school after the school resource officer saw them get out of a car, some having bats and a club, around 11:50am. Two were students and others reportedly included gang

members. Police believe the incident was connected to a fight at the school the day before this incident.

September 11, 2006: Livingston, CA, A man searching for aluminum cans found three handguns in what appeared to be a child's backpack and a SKS assault rifle across the street from a combined high school and middle school facility. The school locked down and police dogs searched the school during the lockdown. Nothing was found.

September 13, 2006: Long Beach, CA, A 16-year-old male high school student riding a city bus was stabbed in the upper torso by a male believed to be 16 to 18 years old, who then fled the bus.

September 13, 2006: Omaha, NE, A male stranger was found hiding under a teacher's desk around 12:15pm at an elementary school. A similar incident occurred at a different elementary school two days before, at which time a teacher's credit cards were stolen and a locked cupboard was broken into

September 14, 2006: Green Bay, W, Police arrested two 17-year-old high school students in connection with a planned attack at their school. Following a student tip to school officials, the school resource officer became involved and police found sawed-off shotguns, pistols, ammunition, several bombs, bomb-making material, camouflage clothing, helmets and gas masks during a home search. Suicide notes were also found.

September 15, 2006: Carrollton, MI, At least seven girls were identified out of at least 15 teens who fought in the stands during a high school football game.

September 20, 2006: Fremont, CA, Two students were stabbed in a suspected gang-related incident in an outside high school corridor. A 16-year-old male student

was stabbed in the stomach and a 14-year-old male student was slashed across the arm around 9:45am.

September 22, 2006: Albany, NY, One student was stabbed in the back and seven others were arrested during a fight at a high school around 1:00pm. The school was locked down for about one hour.

September 22, 2006: Oxnard, CA, Three 14-year-old high school students, two girls and one male, were stabbed with scissors by a stranger who came onto campus at the end of the school day. A 19-year-old male was taken into custody.

September 22, 2006: Montgomery, AL, An 18-year-old Second Chance School student was arrested for plotting a shooting at a high school. Students at the high school were not allowed off campus for approximately two hours as police secured the school.

September 22, 2006: Charlotte, NC, Two teens were beaten with a metal crutch in what police described as a gang-related assault at a high school football game. The victims were reportedly hospitalized with injuries to the head and face. At least one teen was subsequently arrested in connection with the attack.

September 23, 2006: Killeen, TX, A school police officer was stabbed in the leg while attempting to break up a fight at a bus loop on the high school campus. The officer, who was stabbed with scissors, reportedly received serious injuries.

September 27, 2006: Fort Worth, TX, Police arrested 20 people outside a high school around 1:30pm in a crackdown on gang-related activity. A group had gathered outside the school, the school's resource officer called for backup, and four adults and 16 juveniles were arrested.

September 28, 2006: Honolulu, HI, Two fight incidents occurred at and near a high school, according to reports. Nine people were arrested. Two 19-year-olds got into a fight at a high school, possibly over a girl. One of the participants had a knife. In one incident 16-year-old was shot with a BB-gun.

October 11, 2006: Hollywood, FL, A 16-year-old male high school student was stabbed several times around 7:30am following an altercation with his 16-year-old assailant. The victim's injuries were reportedly not life threatening.

October 11, 2006: Baltimore, MD, A 14-year-old female middle school student was stabbed by a 13-year-old middle school female student with a 10-inch knife around 1:15pm. School officials said the incident stemmed from an "ongoing neighborhood dispute."

October 19, 2006: Petaluma, CA, Police responded to a high school fight involving at least 20 gang members. The conflict appeared to stem from another fight the previous day.

October 23, 2006: Orem, UT, A high school's school resource officer was assaulted as he tried to arrest one individual that was with two other individuals, reportedly gang members, one of whom he recognized as someone who had trespassed at the school in the past. A knife and machete were found in their car.

October 26, 2006: Federal Way, WA, A high school parent-teacher conference had to be put into a lockdown after a teen was shot following a fight nearby. Additional security was also at the school the next day.

October 30, 2006: New Britain, CT, A 16-year-old male high school student allegedly stabbed a 17-year-old male student as the victim left the school cafeteria.

November 1, 2006: Edgewood, MD, Nine high school students, ages 14-17, were arrested after a fight between two students escalated into a brawl around 7:30am.

November 2, 2006: Southington, OH, Two male teens, around 15 years old, were arrested in connection with a plot to kill a high school principal by shooting him four times in his face at his home. As many as four teens were believed to be involved, according to initial police reports.

November 6, 2006: Austin, TX, Two teens under age 17 were arrested and held in juvenile facility custody in connection with a plot for a "life threatening attack" upon their high school.

November 8, 2006: Biddeford, ME, A high school student was found stabbed, with a knife sticking in his stomach, in a school restroom around 9:20am.

November 8, 2006: Reserve Township, PA, One 16-year-old male student stabbed another 16-year-old male student with a steak knife while they were riding their school bus around 8:00am. The knife was thrown out of the bus window but was recovered by police

November 16, 2006: Newington, CT, A 15-year-old male high school student cut a 16-year-old male student in the arm with a pocket knife following an altercation in gym class around 9:20am. The victim, a friend of the student who cut him, was not seriously injured.

November 17, 2006: Crothersville, IN, A 15-year-old male high school student was arrested for having a hit list of 16 people to kill.

November 18, 2006: Savannah, GA, Employees of a private day school found a device which they thought to be a bomb on campus. Police were called and the device was detonated by the bomb squad. Police reported that several students were being interviewed and it was suspected that the device may have been constructed by students. Police subsequently arrested two 14-year-old male students. Reports indicate that one of the boys took the bomb home but brought it back at the urging of a school administrator, who kept the bomb for nearly 24 hours before notifying the police.

November 20, 2006: Henderson, NV, The father of a high school student became combative and was escorted off campus by school police and security personnel after coming to the school nurse's office for his daughter. The male threatened to return with a gun. He came back with a knife and was arrested after breaking loose, hitting two officers, and being hit by a Taser from city police who also responded.

November 28, 2006: Boston, MA, A 14-year-old male high school student was arrested with a loaded firearm. The male had been suspended from school, but came back and punched a teacher in the face. He fled the building and was then found by police, at which time he was found to be in possession of the gun.

November 28, 2006: Baltimore, MD, A 20-year-old high school student was stabbed during an altercation outside the high school around 11:00am during lunch time. A warrant was issued for an 18-year-old student suspect who reportedly fled at the time of the incident.

November 29, 2006: Shelby County, KY, A 16-year-old high school student was taken to the hospital after being stabbed during a fight with a 14-year-old student in the commons area of the school near the gym around 8:20am.

December 1, 2006: Ft. Wayne, IN, About 200 more students than normal were absent from a high school after rumors of a drive-by shooting accelerated earlier in the week, including via a text message. The rumors of a gang-related drive-by stemmed from the death of a student earlier in the week, but were only false rumors according to reports.

December 4, 2006: North Vernon, IN, A 16-year-old male high school student was arrested in connection with the slashing of another 16-year-old male student's throat around 8:30am in the school's cafeteria. The victim received a cut between 3 and 4 inches to the right side of his throat.

December 5, 2006: Cleveland, OH, An 18-year-old high school student received stab wounds to his arm and stomach during a fight outside of the school at dismissal

December 7, 2006: Lawrence, MA, Five admitted gang members, including the gang's leader and his sisters, were arrested in connection with a large brawl across from the high school at dismissal.

December 8, 2006: San Diego, CA, A male high school student was stabbed as many as three times while waiting at a bus stop, in front of an elementary school, on the way to school.

December 9, 2006: Newington, CT, A 16-year-old male was arrested and charged in connection with a stabbing during an altercation between groups from two schools at a high school hockey game. The suspect was found with the knife and in possession of 11 bags of marijuana, according to police.

December 11, 2006: Lawton, OK, An 8th-grade female middle school student was stabbed in the side by another 8th-grade-female student during an altercation on school grounds at the end of the school day.

December 11, 2006: Detroit, MI, A Detroit middle school was put into lockdown after a drive-by shooting near the school. No students were injured or involved, but police searched the neighborhood around the school for the shooters.

December 13, 2006: Maquoketa, IA, School and police officials investigated threatening graffiti found in a restroom which included a stick figure with a gun and words indicating that nothing would be the same after 12/15/06. School continued with beefed up security the following days.

December 14, 2006: Stamford, CT, A 16-year-old male high school student was arrested for allegedly slashing another 16-year-old male student in the chin and chest with a box cutter during a fight in a school restroom around 1:45pm.

December 14, 2006: York, PA, A 9th-grader was stabbed in the stomach with a pencil during a fight in the high school's cafeteria around 1:00pm. The victim was taken to the hospital.

December 14, 2006: Willingboro, NJ, An elementary school teacher was sickened and her class quarantined, and the remaining 425 students were evacuated and subsequently held on school buses, after the teacher received an envelope with white powder. The powder was later found not to be a hazardous material, according to reports.

December 15, 2006: Miami, FL, An 18-year-old male high school student was arrested for allegedly stabbing a 16-year-old during an altercation around 1:00pm in a school breezeway. The victim's injuries were not life-threatening, according to reports

December 15, 2006: Birmingham, AL, A 14-year-old high school student was stabbed in the back as he walked from lunch to class.

December 18, 2006: Middletown, NY, A 14-year-old male high school student was allegedly stabbed with an art tool by another 14-year-old student during class.

December 18, 2006: Houston, TX, Two students were stabbed and one was cut during an altercation outside of a middle school around 1:45pm at dismissal.

December 22, 2006: Lee County, IA, Three male high school teens, ages 15, 16, and 17, were arrested during the week and charged with conspiracy to shoot students and teachers.

January 6, 2007: East Charleston, W.Va., A school bus driver was credited with quick thinking after a man attempted to hijack the school bus and have the driver take him over 100 miles away. The driver was doing paperwork on the bus while a speech and debate team was having dinner after a competition. No one was injured.

January 23, 2007: Tulsa, OK, Several people were taken into custody after fights broke out at a high school basketball game. Police said two rival gangs started the fight, which spilled over onto the court. The game was stopped and the gym was cleared, but the fighting continued in the parking lot.

January 30, 2007: Peekskill, NY, An 18-year-old was stabbed in the leg during a fight that broke out after a high school basketball game.

January 30, 2007: Milwaukee, WI, At least ten persons were arrested and six, including four police officers and two students, were sent to the hospital after a fight broke out following an overtime victory at a high school basketball game.

January 31, 2007: San Antonio, TX, A 14-year-old male high school student was stabbed and airlifted to the hospital following a fight in a courtyard near the school's cafeteria.

January 31, 2007: Country Club Hills, IL, A high school student stabbed another student in the face during an afternoon class. The victim was treated at the hospital.

February 1, 2007: Washington, DC, Four high school students were arrested for aggravated assault on a school physical education teacher who was serving as a referee for an intramural basketball game at the school. The assailants were reportedly angry over a call made by the referee.

February 6, 2007: Farmington, New Mexico, A 25-year-old male convicted sex offender was arrested after entering a middle school dressed as a police officer and carrying a six-inch knife. The male had reportedly been in the building at least two other times since January. He was charged with unlawfully carrying a weapon and impersonating a police officer.

February 7, 2007: Lauderdale, FL, Police arrested a 13-year-old male middle school student for using a paring knife he brought to school to stab one of two other students who had allegedly been harassing him in the school's cafeteria.

February 8, 2007: Brunswick, OH, Schools were closed for a third day in a row due to bomb threat calls. A 19-year-old suspect was subsequently arrested.

February 8, 2007: Manteca, CA, Nine students were arrested in connection with a brawl at a high school which had "gang overtones," according to a report.

February 13, 2007: Denver, CO, A mother and daughter were stabbed multiple times by three adult females (approximate ages 25, 26, and 30) while walking down the street in front of an elementary school. The suspects pulled up in, and exited from, a car and an altercation ensued, during which both victims were stabbed multiple times. The suspects were later apprehended while hiding from authorities in a west Denver home, according to reports.

February 14, 2007: Newington, CT, A 16-year-old male high school student was charged with making bombs to attack fellow students. A parent learned of the plot and notified authorities. Weapons were seized from the male's home.

February 15, 2007: Mesa, AZ, Police suspect a 17-year-old male of stabbing his 15-year-old ex-girlfriend and her 37-year-old mother at a school bus stop. The male reportedly cut the girl, and then the mother who rushed to help her, and then started cutting himself.

February 22, 2007: San Diego, CA, A 15-year-old male student was stabbed multiple times during a fight around 1:30pm at the high school.

February 22, 2007: Austin, TX, A 14-year-old was stabbed during an altercation with another student in their high school restroom.

February 23, 2007: Philadelphia, PA, A 60-year-old male high school math teacher was assaulted by two students, ages 17 and 15, and suffered two broken neck vertebrae and a gash on his face after he took an iPod away from one of his students during class.

February 26, 2007: West Hempstead, NY, A 17-year-old male high school student was allegedly pulled from a car he was in with several friends, punched, and then stabbed multiple times with a four-inch knife by another 17-year-old male.

February 26, 2007: Camden, NJ, 17 students were arrested and 6 taken to the hospital in a brawl that broke out in a high school, reportedly due to an argument that started over the weekend.

March 1, 2007: Jefferson County, CO, Columbine High School was evacuated due to a bomb threat call received and classes were cancelled for the remainder of the day.

March 1, 2007: Enterprise, AL, Eight students were killed after a roof collapsed following a tornado hitting a high school.

March 1, 2007: Richmond, VA, A fight in a high school cafeteria escalated to involve 30 to 50 students, according to a report, and resulted in the arrest of six students. Approximately 25 police officers responded to the school, which went into lockdown. No injuries were reported.

March 2, 2007: Buffalo, NY, Six arrests were made and two people were injured in two consecutive school days of fights involving rival gang members at a city high school.

March 5, 2007: Lawrence, MA, Two 15-year-old males allegedly kidnapped a former teacher at knife-point after showing up on her doorstep at home later in the night, asking her to use the phone to call a friend for a ride, and then getting into her car after she offered to give them a ride. They took her to an ATM machine to withdraw cash and she later escaped as police observed the vehicle. The suspects fled and crashed, and were apprehended.

March 5, 2007: New York, NY, A 13-year-old was arrested in the connection with the stabbing of a 16-year-old during a confrontation near a subway while on the way to school.

March 6, 2007: Jacksonville, FL, An elementary school went into precautionary lockdown after shots were fired in the neighborhood. Police said a male who was shot walked into a nearby police substation around that time and was taken to the hospital.

March 6, 2007: Glasgow, DE, A state trooper apprehended a 15-year-old high school student after he attempted to attack another student with a two-inch razor knife. The victim had a minor scrape on his abdomen and did not need medical attention. The incident started as an argument in a classroom and spilled out into the hallway.

March 7, 2007: Rochester, NY, A 19-year-old female non-student was arrested in connection with the slashing of a high school student as the student fought with another student outside of the high school before school started.

March 16, 2007: Riner, VA, Two middle school students, ages 14 and 15, were arrested after one brought a gun to school and at least one of the two talked about killing the principal and others. A student told the school resource officer (SRO) and police credited the student with likely saving lives. A .22-caliber gun and an undisclosed amount of ammunition was found.

March 27, 2007: Hollywood, FL, A 17-year-old female high school student was slashed in the face with a straight-razor by a 15-year-old female student during a fight aboard their school bus. The victim was hospitalized.

March 29, 2007: Felton, CA, A 16-year-old female walked into a high school with stab wounds claiming a man with a mask stabbed her. The female was airlifted to the hospital due to the seriousness of the wounds. Police secured an area by the school's pool at the rear of the school as a crime scene. Police later reported that they suspect the female may have stabbed herself.

March 30, 2007: Houston, TX, A 16-year-old high school student was taken to the hospital with stab wounds after two males reportedly ran past him and stabbed him outside of the school about 15 minutes after the school's dismissal.

April 4, 2007: Mobile, AL, Two girls, ages 12 and 14, stabbed each other with the same knife during an after-school fight involving five girls outside of a middle school.

April 23, 2007: Jersey City, NJ, A male high school student was stabbed and seven others were arrested after a fight that broke out at school dismissal.

April 24, 2007: Apple Valley, CA, A 17-year-old male was stabbed in the back while walking home from his high school around 2:20pm. The incident was reportedly gang and racially motivated.

April 27, 2007: Sacramento, CA, Four high school students were arrested in connection with a plot to shoot two female students. Two of the males, ages 14 and 15, were stopped on the way to school and found with a gun and extra ammunition. One of the males had pictures of the two girls who were believed to be the targets. (School Security, Kenneth Trump)

Another confusing area of the safety climate is the Texas Education Agency , State and Private Colleges refuse to increase required courses in the area of safety and school law for administrators. Currently to date normally requirements are to take one course regarding administrative case law and very limited review of Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code. This brief review is not beneficial enough to positively affect district employees and the school districts they are entrusted to manage areas of safety with little to no training. Administrators need extensive training in many areas of knowledge, Interpretations and understandings emergency procedures, crisis intervention and a vast knowledge of the laws.

School administrators are faced with more students who are full of "At Risk" variables. Many students are victims of drug abuse, victims of family violence, one or no parent house holds, youth and teen pregnancy, high peer pressure for peers to commit criminal activities, truancy and in some areas strong gang influences:

Schools are not islands of lawlessness where the criminal law does not apply, and it should not even be a debatable issue as to whether or not they have this "option" to report, as unfortunately far too many school administrators believe they do. (n.p.)

FINDINGS

Our State, Local and Federal governments have continued to prove in light of Virginia tech Massacre we are unable to cure the safety issues and epidemics of school and university shootings. We need strong mandates with funding to tackle the unsafe climate many schools, which due to a false believe of being safe and economical issues have allowed serious issues not to be for a number of years.

During the research period it was impossible to find any statistical stats, which could provide a true picture into the amount of funding or required reporting. Many states have little requirements of how schools report. Example, a student is arrested for a possession of marijuana offense; schools simply report a code of conduct violation. The references have addressed many of the barriers between school administration and law enforcement officers and we will look at the cognitive dissonance between the two professional groups. We need to ask ourselves if the goals are truly common? Do school districts want the safest schools possible or high-test scores at any cost? Will they be willing to suffer the test scores to make schools safe? Simply said, economics is playing a major factor.

Prior research and continued studies clearly will show schools are just clearly meeting the bottom line. The research, consist of personal knowledge, manuals, Internet articles, journals from many experts in the filed of school safety. The research shows we need more funding and mandated laws to support school safety in many different forms necessary to provide the safest environment for teaching and learning. The data also shows trends are either increasing in violence and/or make reference to underreporting is a common place in many school districts.

School districts in Texas are subjected to the number game. Principals are forced to chase numbers in many different categories; failure not to produce exemplary schools is simply unacceptable. Low scores results in quick careers at the administrative level and underreporting becomes a common result. School administrators have the heavy task in having high TAKS scores, high attendance rates, low discipline numbers, no criminal rates, and still smile big while worrying about the issues. Some schools districts have little or no issues due to demographic areas and high tax brackets, but generally many are in trouble with the rapidly changing demographics and reduction in funds. For this reason we have created serious Cognitive Dissonance between Law Enforcement and School Officials.

In many aspects Law Enforcements major goal is to provide safety and create a safe learning environment for all stakeholders in the community.

The reality is many school district police department and School resource Officers are faced with the same if not more issues an entire community deals with daily. Usually these officers have little to no resources but must utilize every bit of help to complete their duties. Many times schools districts are referred to as a city with-in a city.

Officers in school are face with: funding issues, increased criminal behaviors and discipline problems, gangs, drug addicted students, violent juveniles and parents, more special education students / mental or behavior issue students.

WASHINGTON -- The rate of serious violent crime — rape, sexual assault, robbery and aggravated assault — at the nation's schools fell from six victimizations per 1,000 students in 2003 to four per 1,000 in 2004, according to a new report by the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and the Department of Education's

National Center for Education Statistics. From July 1, 2004, through June 30, 2005, preliminary reports show there were 21 homicides at school. During the previous year, 19 homicides occurred at school, according to preliminary data.

During 2005, nearly all students 12 to 18 years old encountered at least one security measure at school. The percentage of students who observed the use of security cameras at their schools increased from 39 percent in 2001 to 58 percent in 2005. At the same time, 90 percent of all students reported seeing school staff members or other adult supervisors in the hallway, and 68 percent of students reported the presence of security guards or assigned police officers at their school (Bureau of Justice Statistics).

CONCLUSIONS

It is clear all administrators, law makers and police officers want safe schools, but it seems we are no closer to those goals in many old and new areas of safety. Working together can create safe and drug free schools, help raise academic standards and provide a safe climate. Closing the gaps between cognitive dissonance of law enforcement beliefs and school educators is also an important hurdle to leap together. Key findings are there we need more mandated funding and more progress to safe schools.

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