



Safe Schools Week

October 21-25, 2024

Safe Schools Week provides an opportunity for students, school staff, and community members to participate in activities, events, and conversations regarding issues affecting school safety. The Michigan State Police, Office of School Safety (MSP/OSS) has compiled a list of ideas to spark engagement during Safe Schools Week and enhance the safety and well-being of students and staff throughout the year.

Involving the Community

- Encourage students and parents to sign a School Safety Pledge. Have the students wear orange (the Unity Day color) to show kindness, acceptance, and inclusion. Host a ceremony where students and staff will take a stand and pledge to keep their school safe.
 - [Elementary School Safety Pledge](#)
 - [Middle and High School Safety Pledge](#)
 - [Parent Safety Pledge](#)
- Create a “Wall Against Violence” where school safety pledges are placed after they are signed. Another option includes a large pledge banner that students and staff sign.
- Host a [blood drive](#) at the school. Have the students help promote and facilitate the event.
- Invite the news media to provide coverage of the School Safety Pledge Ceremony.
- Organize a community-wide screening of a movie addressing peer mistreatment or online safety followed by a discussion.



Practice, Practice, Practice

- Sponsor a [“First Aid”](#) event where students and teachers learn first aid techniques and participate in simulation activities that would prepare students to help others in situations of need.
- Sponsor a [“Stop the Bleed”](#) event to teach staff and students will recognize life-threatening bleeding and intervene effectively.

- Sponsor [Mental Health First Aid training](#) for students and staff.
- Introduce the concept of Family Preparedness to students. Have students work with their classmates to develop a “Go Kit”. Encourage students to share their completed assignments with a parent and/or guardian. Assign extra credit if the student completes a family Home Hazard Hunt, establishes a family emergency plan, and/or develops an Emergency Preparedness Kit. For additional information, go to [Michigan Prepares](#) or [Family Preparedness Guide](#).
- Learn what steps you can take before first responders arrive that can help save a life. The [You Are the Help Until Help Arrives](#) program teaches adults and students simple actions to take during a life-threatening emergency.
- Conduct a [mandatory school safety/security drill](#). Consider inviting first responders to observe and [offer feedback](#).



Develop/Support Student Leadership

- Set up a buddy support system for students who are new to the school. Assign current students to newcomers to facilitate a more welcoming transition.
- Develop a group of student leaders who can mentor elementary students who might be the target of bullying.
- Establish clubs designed to involve students and promote safety and well-being. Some options to consider include:
 - A Kindness Club
 - [No Place for Hate](#)
 - [SAVE Promise Club](#)
 - [Students Against Destructive Decisions](#)
 - [STEP: Student Tools for Emergency Planning](#)
 - [TEEN CERT](#)
- Establish peer counseling where students promote the health, well-being, and safety of young people through peer education and referral.
- Run a [#PositivePost-it-Day](#) to help flip the script on bullying. Encourage students to post encouraging, compassionate, and thoughtful messages on lockers and hallways.



- Discuss with students the importance of identifying positive, trusted adults in schools and extracurricular activities.
- Bring about positive change by learning how your school can become a [Special Olympics Unified Champion School](#). The program brings together students with and without intellectual disabilities through education, sports, and youth leadership to provide them with the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect, and human dignity.
- Celebrate *Everyday Heroes*. Have students nominate staff or peers that have been helpful above and beyond good citizenship. Announce the nominees and have recognition for them. Consider reaching out to a local business to donate prizes or food. [Random Acts of Kindness](#) may also be a criterion for recognition.
- Participate in [Mix it Up](#), an international campaign that challenges and encourages students to cross social boundaries and sit with someone they don't know at lunch.
- Participate in [Between the Bells](#), an interactive program for high school students to spark conversations about mental health and to remind those struggling they are not alone.
- Organize a school-wide unity/peace march to promote tolerance and respect for individual differences.
- Encourage students to develop [OK2SAY Public Service Announcements](#).

Emphasize a Safe Physical Environment

- Conduct a [site assessment](#) of the school and areas outside of the building including athletic facilities, performance venues, bus storage or staging areas, and common pedestrian routes near the school.
- Review the school's [Emergency Operations Plan](#). Integrate the results of the site assessment into the school's Emergency Operations Plan. To request a copy of MSP's All-Hazards Emergency Operations Planning Guidance for Schools (2014), email MSP-SchoolSafety@michigan.gov.
- Have a Safe Schools Week poster contest using the five categories provided in this guide. Let students or school staff judge the contest. Display the posters throughout the school.
- Have students research and create public announcements on issues affecting their safety and well-being (e.g., bullying, cyberbullying, mental health). Encourage the students to read their script during morning announcements.

- Invite first responders to make presentations to students on personal safety, fire safety, or transportation safety.
- Request an [OK2SAY Student Safety Presentation](#) in your school.
- Ensure all school staff have reviewed the school's policy on bullying and cyberbullying.
- Conduct a [cybersecurity assessment](#) of the school district's practices and policies. Incorporate the findings in the school's cybersecurity risk management program.

Emphasize the Importance of Continuing Efforts

- Make a permanent school mural that incorporates statements from the whole school community about inclusiveness and acceptance.
- Organize activities for students that focus on empathy and compassion by organizing volunteer events in the community.
- Invite a member from the community to discuss healthy dating relationships.
- Invite one or more professionals in law enforcement, mental health, social work, or health care to educate students about the negative impact of substance and alcohol abuse in minors.
- Invite parents and news media to your school to showcase the positive things at school that students are doing to prevent violence.
- Organize a youth roundtable on student safety. Encourage students to share their safety ideas with school administration.
- Plan a collaborative project with the neighborhood for students, staff, parents, and other volunteers to support beautification and greening efforts (e.g., lawn care, planting, litter pick-up) in the area.
- Partner with a local retailer to have students design a bag insert/flyer to promote kindness or inspiring messages.
- Host a celebration or rally to celebrate the positive impact of the week's activities.