

Engaging Youth in Violence Prevention



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[In this webinar](#), youth members of the Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Advisory Board discuss how to effectively engage youth in leading violence prevention efforts. Joining the youth are trusted adult leaders who share best practices for working alongside and encouraging their students.

Learning Outcomes

- » Explain the importance of engaging youth in violence prevention efforts.
- » Describe strategies to engage youth in school safety programming.
- » Employ techniques that support and retain teen leaders.

Key Takeaways

- ✓ Youth engagement in violence prevention is important because it allows students to feel a sense of ownership over their environment. This promotes personal empowerment, a sense of safety, and a belief that they can make a difference.
- ✓ Youth can be included in process planning, recruiting others, organizing, implementing, and providing feedback on violence prevention programs. Regardless of their role, it is important that their voices are heard and they feel valued.
- ✓ When working with youth, serve as a facilitator, rather than a director or manager, to encourage open communications and student leadership. Listen to and be willing to learn from youth.
- ✓ To encourage youth and staff buy-in, start or join a safety club or committee led by youth, make leadership positions available, and/or hold a listening session to give students a chance to share topics that are important to them.
- ✓ Partnering with others in the community can support the success and longevity of a violence prevention program, as long as student voice remains the central focus.

Additional Resources

[Youth Collaboration: Tools and Tips from Youth SAG Members](#) - A report from the Coalition for Juvenile Justice that aims to help State Advisory Groups deepen partnerships with youth members.

[Youth Compensation: Challenges and Solutions](#) - An overview of the importance of compensating youth to help overcome barriers and roadblocks that hinder engagement.

Questions for Discussion

- » How could you ensure youth ideas and voices remain central to your violence prevention program?
- » What are some barriers to youth engagement that are present in your school environment or in your community?
- » How can adults support the project while maintaining a focus on youth voices?
- » What are some steps that your school can take to support youth engagement?

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This project was supported by Cooperative Agreement No 2019 YS BX K 001 awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the Office for Victims of Crime, and the Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking. Points of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.