

Questions to Your Answers About School Safety

This pad of sticky-notes is a tool for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and everyone invested in creating safe schools. There is no “right” way to use this pad. Just peel the sheets, pass them out, and stick them up to start conversations wherever you are.

What are schools for?

How will safety
decisions improve
the wellbeing of our
school community?

How does our
school safety plan
invite meaningful
participation by the
community?

How are students
included in our
decision-making
about school safety?
Are they in the
room now?

How are different students being treated differently?

What does it mean to be safe and feel safe?

What moves the experience of learning from fear to joy?

None of us are experts at this. And it's messy. That's how we learn.

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What I love about my school is _____ .

What actions can we take today that promote a sense of belonging?

What needs to be encouraged and why?

What more can we do to show we care for one another?

How can we ensure that our practices and policies are equitable to all students?

What is the problem again?

We talk a lot about making things safer, but what is the relationship between safety and wellbeing?

Not all of our students feel welcome at school. How can we tell? How can we fix this?

What makes our community a special place to live? How can we build on this?

What I love about my community is _____ .

What qualities of our community do we cherish? How are these nurtured in our school safety plan?

How can we create entryways to the school that are welcoming and affirming?

Let's remember why we're here.

What is the impact of our safety policies on students' mental health?

Is safety the same as security?

At what point does protection from threat become more important than enjoying life?

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We need to change _____ in order to _____ .

Where does our safety plan need to be and where are we now?

Picture yourself in a place you feel safe. What are the qualities of this place?

Walk through the school – inside and out. What areas are neglected? How could they be enlivened?

How do our safety policies make our students feel?
Safer? Happier?
More Inspired?

The most important issue to solve now is _____.

How do we motivate our students to participate in school safety?

If we could start over, where would we start?

How will this safety plan impact others?
Will implementing it strengthen our community?

Let's look at this another way...

What do we need to unlearn about school safety?

How can our school provide more empathic spaces for students to unpack, discuss, and share experiences?

How can differences in culture, race, gender, and language be addressed in school safety efforts?

What about your own questions? Ask them.

What is the recipe to create an environment where all students can flourish?

Read the first part of your safety plan. What message is it sending? Does it carry a feeling of warmth and care?

Our safety policies
don't always feel
good in practice.
What can we do
about that?

Let's take an
honest look at our
assumptions and
question them.

Is preventing harm a
high enough standard?

How is the whole
community being
included in our
conversations about
safety?

What have we left
out? Who are we
forgetting?

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What if _____?