



School Safety Matters

JANUARY 2013

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Students were overachieving in the compliments. Someone would post a compliment, and someone else would post an even longer, even more supportive and even funnier compliment."

Eyal Hanfling
comments on the success of the [compliments-only Facebook site](#) he created for his high school.



SafeSchools Honors Sandy Hook Victims with Free 'Aftermath of Tragedy' Resources

As news of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School reached the SafeSchools offices, our hearts were broken as we learned that 20 innocent children and 6 school staff members were killed by a gunman.

Now is the time to come together to support the victims of Sandy Hook and to do our part to help all the schools across the U.S. deal with this tragedy. That's why we're proud to offer our *Managing the Aftermath of Tragedy* courses free of charge. This series includes customized courses for administrators and staff members that provide:

- Key strategies on how to respond to tragedies.
- Information on typical childhood reactions to crises.
- Ways to provide care and comfort to students and staff.

EXPERT AUTHORS

The courses are written by our expert-authors, Drs. Scott and Donna Poland. Dr. Scott Poland is Associate Professor at the Center for Psychological Studies at Nova Southeastern University. He is the author of a number of books on youth suicide and school crisis response including *Coping with Crisis* and is a renowned consultant to schools and districts nationwide. Dr. Donna Poland has served as a school administrator for 19 years including service as principal of three different secondary schools. She is currently Director of University Middle School in Davie, Florida.

ACCESS THE RESOURCES

SafeSchools Training customers can access these courses in your Emergency Management category.

Non-customers may access these free resources by:

1. Visiting <http://caring.safeschools.com>.
2. Clicking the 'Register' link in the login box.



TIP OF THE MONTH

To deal with bullies, schools must: commit to stop bullying, provide administrative support for the staff, develop clear policies on reporting and protection, openly train and campaign against bullying, and strive to understand the forces that cause bullying.

For more tips on how to recognize and prevent bullying, check out [SafeSchools Training's Bullying: Recognition and Response](#) course.



SIGN UP FOR A FREE TRIAL!



FORWARD TO A FRIEND



SUBSCRIBE TO NEWSLETTER

3. Entering 'CARES' as the Registration key.

Our thoughts and prayers will continue to be with the Newtown community as they work to heal and move forward. May they find peace and comfort.



When Teachers Become the Target

When you think of bullying, the first thing that likely comes to mind is student-to-student bullying. However, another form of bullying that doesn't receive as much attention, but is a growing problem is student-to-teacher bullying.

Student bullying of teachers can take many forms, including taunting a teacher in a classroom; vandalism, such as keying cars and causing flat tires; theft of a teacher's property; filing false reports about a teacher, or it may even manifest itself by escalating to a physical attack. According to the Department of Justice and the Department of Education's most recent statistics, in 2010, more than 421,000 U.S. teachers reported being physically attacked or threatened with injury by students.

Social media has also facilitated teacher bullying by students. Many students have gone as far as creating fake online profiles to harass teachers by posting mean and hurtful comments. Others have rated teachers or shared unflattering video secretly filmed during class. Students believe this is their way of getting back at teachers without repercussions. But that's changing.

Fortunately, states are beginning to take notice of student-to-teacher bullying and [North Carolina](#) recently became the first state to pass a law that makes cyberbullying against a teacher or school employee by a student illegal. If a student is found making online posts in attempts to intimidate, bully, or harass a school employee they will now be charged with a misdemeanor.

What can your staff do if they find themselves victims of student bullying and intimidation? First and foremost, they should follow your district's policies and procedures regarding bullying.

In addition, SafeSchools Training offers multiple courses on how to identify, address, and prevent forms of bullying:

- [*Bullying: Recognition and Response*](#)
- [*Disruptive Student Behavior*](#)
- [*Gang Awareness*](#)
- [*Online Safety: Cyberbullying*](#)
- [*Online Safety: Threats of Violence*](#)
- [*Online Safety: What Every Educator Needs to Know*](#)

For more information on SafeSchools Training courses, please contact us at



Student Receives \$1M in Title VI Lawsuit Against District

For over three years, a New York student was a victim of racial bullying by his fellow classmates. The U.S. Court of Appeals awarded the student \$1 million dollars in damages as a violation of Title VI.

Title VI provides that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance.

So why was the district liable?

The Court found that the district was 'deliberately indifferent':

1. They had substantial control:

- a. Faculty and staff reported numerous bullying incidents against this student to the administration.
- b. The student also reported racial harassment in the hallways to administrators.
- c. The student's parent also contacted school administrators between thirty and fifty times.
- d. Fourth, various third parties, including the police, raised the issue of students harassing this victim.
- e. The bullying incidents occurred on school grounds or its property.

2. There was severe and discriminatory harassment that took place.

3. The district had actual knowledge, and there was 'deliberate indifference':

- a. Even though the district did discipline the known harassers of the victim, the district was still 'deliberately indifferent' because the response was not sufficient to end the harassment.

Court rulings like this one can be financially devastating. Learn how you can safeguard your district by contacting SafeSchools Training at 1-800-434-0154 or info@safeschools.com.

Mid-Year Compliance Check

Winter Break is over and that means the school year is nearly halfway through. It's a great time to do a mid-year training and compliance check to

be sure you're on track to meet your safety goals and manage liability. SafeSchools Training customers who are an administrator in the system can easily check your compliance progress:

1. Log in to your SafeSchools Training system.
2. Select 'View Admin Area'.
3. Click the 'Reports' Tab.
4. Use our Quick Reports to see all course completions to date for the school year.
5. For a more detailed report, click on the 'Compliance by Person' link, directly below the blue Navigation Tabs.

For more information on how SafeSchools Training can help with your compliance, please contact us at 1-800-434-0154 or info@safeschools.com.

SafeSchools 2012 Recap

We want to take a moment to thank all of our customers for another record-setting year! For the first time, we surpassed the 2.1 million course completions per year mark! Our production and editorial teams were busy as well, adding 24 new SafeSchools and 14 new SafeColleges courses. And, last but certainly not least, our product development team made our courses mobile-compatible, refreshed our product interface, and updated the Reports area in our Training products to make it even more useful. And, we're now serving 4,100 customers in the U.S. and Canada! 2012 was definitely a very good year!

Great things are happening here at SafeSchools and we have big plans for 2013 so stay tuned for some more exciting news! Once again, thanks for being a SafeSchools customer!

Visit SafeSchools in Person

Throughout the year, you can find SafeSchools at various trade shows, conferences, and education-related events across the country. Look for us this month at the following event:

[Wisconsin Joint State Education Convention](#)

1/23-1/25, Milwaukee, WI, Booth 940

School Safety News

[Principal Punishes HS Boys with Hand Holding](#)

[Students Set up Facebook Sites for Compliments](#)

[HS Band Director Accused of Misconduct](#)

[Rise in Diabetes](#)

[High School Sued for Student Hazing](#)

[Boy Charged in Fatal School Bus Shooting](#)

[HS Worker Arrested for Harassment](#)

[Teacher Suspended After Harassment Claim](#)

[District Recovering After Violence](#)

[Teen Commits Suicide Outside School](#)

[District Sued After Student's Death](#)

[Carbon Monoxide Leak at School Caused by Staff](#)

[School Cleaned After Students Get Sick](#)