**PROBLEM:** Inconsistent, reactive, inefficient short-term approach to addressing school & community violence & promoting social, emotional, & behavioral competence

**RESPONSE:** Deliberate, focused, sustained, high-fidelity implementation of prevention & behavioral sciences

**OPPORTUNITY:** Schools, families, & communities

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**Why Invest in Schools?**

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**Prevention-based Protective Factors**

- Positive adults modeling
- Neighborhood availability
- Specialized supports
- Positive classroom & school climate
- Academic success
- Social, emotional, & behavioral success
- Caring, professional adults

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**DATA POINT**

**Students’ Relationships in School and Feelings About Personal Safety at School**

2015 Nationally Representative Sample Survey

Perceptions of school safety & neighborhood crime of 12–18 year olds.

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**Regardless of perceptions of crime, 93% students reported feeling safe at school.**

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**More likely to report feeling safe at school if adult or student**

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Why Now More than Ever?

**DATA POINT**

**Changes in Bullying Victimization and Hate-Related Words at School Since 2007**

Data from U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), 2016.

Perceptions of bullying victimization & hate-related words of 12-18 year olds.

USDoe: NCES March 2018

2015 Nationally Representative Sample Survey

Deaf and hard of hearing students who have been bullied at school occurred between 2007 and 2016.

In 2015, 1.7 percent of students aged 13 through 18 reported being bullied at school.

A significant decrease in the proportion of students aged 13 through 18 who indicated that they had been bullied at school occurred between 2011 and 2013, as well as between 2011 and 2016.

**SPLC, 12 Jan 2017**

In the first days after the 2016 presidential election, the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Teaching Tolerance project administered an online survey to K-12 educators from across the country. Over 6,000 teachers, counselors, administrators and others who work in schools have responded. The survey data indicate that the results of the election are having a profoundly negative impact on schools and students. Ninety percent of educators report that school climate has been negatively affected, and most of them believe it will have a long-lasting impact. A full 80% describe táxiaaring anxiety and concern about the part of students worried about the impact of the election on themselves and their families.

**THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO MENTIONED**

SMARTSASS 54
CONFEDERATE FLAGS 31
THE XXX 40
BUILD THE WALL 47
DEPORTATION 672
KAG 53
THE N-WORD 117
FLUSH 38
SWITCHING 7
NOISE 4
AFRICA (sent back to) 89
SLAVERY 20
Responses from 10,000 educators...

- 8/10 report negative impact on student mood & behavior following election; most worry about continuing impact remainder of school year.
- 8/10 report heightened anxiety by marginalized students, incl. immigrants, Muslims, AA, & LGBT
- 4/10 heard derogatory language to these groups.
- 5/10 said students were targeting each other based on which candidate they supported.
- 6/10 reported responsive administrators, but 4/10 have no plans for reporting hate/bias incidents.
- 250 specific incident descriptions of bigotry & harassment related to election rhetoric, incl. graffiti (e.g., swastikas), assaults, property damage, fights, threats of violence.
- 5/10 hesitant to discuss election in class. Some principals have told teachers not to discuss election.

**FBI Data on Reported Hate Crime Incidents November 2017**

- 55% to 5.17% increase (4.6%) total hate crime incidents (5.4% 2014)
- 19% rise anti-Muslim hate crimes
- 7% increase (3,790 to 3,458) racist/hate crimes
- 1.9% (over 170 cases) religious bias
- 1/8 sexual orientation bias
- Offenders: 46% white, 25% black

**What do office discipline referrals measure?**

- Community
- Teacher
- Student
- Family
- Administrator

**Implementation Challenge**

- Risk Factors vs Protective Factors
  - Mental illness
  - Disability
  - Substance Use
  - Abusive behavior
  - Academic competence
  - Healthy habits
  - Interpersonal skills
  - Self-management skills

- Keeps me up at night!

- Subjective non-data-based decision making
- Prioritization of ineffective practices
- Negative classroom & school climate & culture
- Implementation infidelity of evidence-based practices
- Degradation of scientific knowledge, methods, & decision making
- Events & images of violent & disrespectful behavior
- Harassment, discrimination, & bullying behavior
- Increasing economic, social, & political gaps & polarization
Prevention & Behavioral Sciences

Prevention Logic for All
Redesign of teaching environments...not students

Prevention Objectives
- Decrease development of new problem behaviors
- Prevent worsening & reduce intensity of existing problem behaviors

Prevention Actions
- Eliminate triggers & maintainers of problem behaviors
- Add triggers & maintainers of prosocial behavior
- Teach (practise, monitor, acknowledge) prosocial behavior

Incidence
Prevalence
Antecedent & Consequence
Behavior

Bijan, 1995; Mayer, 1995; Walker et al., 1996
RCT & Group Design PBIS Studies

Defendable data
- Evidence-based practice
- Student responsiveness
- Implementation fidelity

Better Outcomes

Significant Differences by GSA Rates by Implementation Level Across Years

Schools implementing PBIS

21,841 schools, 15,982,505 students

BIG IDEAS

1. Schools = excellent PREVENTION opportunity (6 hours/day, 180 days/year that can be safe, predictable, positive for ALL students)
2. BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES - serve as useful theory of action/change
3. Positive, doable, effective PRACTICES exist to maximize academic/behavioral success
4. Implementation SYSTEMS needed for students to experience & benefit from effective practices
5. DECISION-based DATA systems to inform actions
6. Consideration of CULTURE & STUDENT BENEFIT needed to guide decisions & actions
CALL for ACTION

A CALL for ACTION

- Positive school climate
- Ban assault-style weapons
- School-based mental health
- Reform reactive discipline practices
- Universal background checks
- Standardized threat assessment teams
- Safety related information exchange
- Gun violence protection orders

Preliminary Agenda

APBS
March 28-31
San Diego, CA

PBIS Forum
October 4-5
Chicago, IL

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