



City of Philadelphia Operation Safe Schools Fact Sheet

Operation Safe Schools is an enhanced intelligence gathering initiative that will focus exclusively on juvenile violent crime prevention.

The main goal is to be more effective in collecting information and sharing intelligence amongst the Philadelphia Police Department, the School District of Philadelphia and other law enforcement and community agencies to meet the challenges of rising crime and violence in and around school communities.

The Police Department has established a new intelligence team, the Juvenile Violence Intelligence Unit. Its members will include, but not be limited to, local law enforcement, social service organizations and criminal justice agencies. Staffing of the Unit will be determined by each agency based on need.

- Philadelphia Police Department – Will assign five (5) employees, including personnel with computer training to develop a state of the art database of intelligence about violent incidents among youth. The Unit will be directed by Lt. Daniel McCann. McCann is a 28-year Police Department veteran with expertise in organized crime intelligence.
- School District of Philadelphia – Will assign two to three (2-3) officers who will work under the direction of the Philadelphia Police Department supervisors. An additional officer or supervisor from the School District can be assigned, if appropriate.

- Town Watch Integrated Services – Will assign two (2) representatives who will work under the direction of the Philadelphia Police Department supervisor to gather intelligence and coordinate with member agencies.

The Unit will be supported by other law enforcement partner agencies:

- Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA)
- The Department of Probation and Parole
- The Philadelphia Police Clergy – A police clergy person will be assigned to every high school and middle school and be available to serve as a resource to students, staff and the Unit. The Police Clergy will be invaluable outreach personnel.
- Department of Human Services (DHS)
- Town Watch Integrated Services will also provide street outreach.

Personnel will be assigned to the Unit by the partner agencies on an as-needed basis, but will be part of the information/intelligence gathering process. The community organizations will also serve as support partners who provide information and assist with outreach into schools, neighborhoods and homes.

One of the major sources of information for the Juvenile Violence Intelligence Unit is the existing security line in use by the School District, 215-299-SAFE. This hotline will be heavily promoted within the school community and in neighborhoods surrounding the schools. It will provide a non-threatening, anonymous vehicle for reporting serious incidents, rumors and intelligence on potential or impending violent situations.

The formation of the Juvenile Violence Intelligence Unit demonstrates a positive investment in the future of young people and a constructive, proactive plan to provide a safer environment for all city residents.

The overall goals are:

- Minimize youth violence/criminal activity for youth under the age of 20
- Provide a safe and orderly environment for students traveling to and from school

- Collect, analyze and prioritize intelligence about students, schools and neighborhoods that are most at risk
- Improve communications between member agencies
- Improve deployment of police patrols and changes in school procedures to promote safety and security
- Develop coordinated response to violent/criminal behavior
- Provide an education support team to all schools – public, parochial, private and charter
- Develop an interactive database for sharing intelligence between law enforcement agencies to support the prevention/intervention work of the task force
- Analyze and act on reported information

This newest initiative enhances the intervention and prevention models already in use throughout the City, such as:

- Police officers assigned to daily patrol outside every public high school
- Police coverage at every public middle and high school during arrival and dismissal
- School police participating with city police in weekly COMPSTAT community crime analysis meetings
- 40 officers who are on standby for deployment to schools in the event of a crisis or violent flare-up
- Regular communication between school principals and police district captains
- School-based juvenile probation officers covering 15 public high schools
- Police officers and community agencies providing a myriad of anti-drug and anti-violence programs, including D.A.R.E., Heads Up and the Youth Violence Reduction Program (YVRP), to children and teens in schools, recreation centers and other community sites around the city
- A \$69 million annual investment in after school and youth development programs that are keeping more than 30,000 kids safe and productive during non-school hours