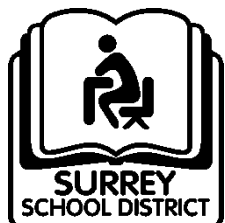


# SAFE SCHOOLS

*Personnel & Support Programs 2010 - 2011*



*The Surrey School District and Safe Schools is committed to providing safe and caring environments in which all learners can achieve excellence, personal growth and responsible citizenship.*

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## Safe Schools Contacts

Safe Schools Department  
14225-56 Avenue, Surrey, BC V3X 3A3  
Telephone: 604-599-7461

<http://www.sd36.bc.ca/safeschools/index.html>



*Theresa Campbell,  
Manager,  
Safe Schools*



*Rob Rai,  
Assistant Manager,  
Safe Schools*

CONTACTS		
Theresa Campbell	Manager	604.599.7461
Rob Rai	Assistant Manager	604.599-7461
Sharon Yap-Chung	Administrative Assistant	604.507-5777
Colleen Correia	Senior DOC	604.599.7461
Rita Rosengren	Senior DOC	604.599-7458
Jeanette Mitchell	Clerk Typist	601.507-5718

*In alignment with all Surrey School District departments, Safe Schools delivers resources and programming that offers education, prevention, and intervention services for students, staff and families related to school and student safety, well-being and success.*

## Applicable Policy / Legislation

### Ministry of Education

This page sets forth the Ministry policy entitled "*Safe Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide*".

### Policy Statement

*British Columbia schools strive to develop positive and welcoming school cultures, and are committed to fostering optimal environments for learning. Members of these school communities share a commitment to maintaining safe, caring and orderly schools.*

### Rationale

To respond to increased interest in the issue of school safety both within the school system and among the general population - interest that stems partly from increasing concern about violence within our communities and, as well, from a recognition of the relationship between feelings of safety and belonging, and a student's ability to learn.

British Columbia schools are striving to create and maintain environments that support student achievement by addressing safety issues that can become barriers to optimal learning.

### Legislation / Regulations

School Act - Preamble, Sections 2, 6(1), 75(1), 76(2)(3), 85(1)(1.1)(2), 169(3), and 177.

PROVINCIAL STANDARDS FOR CODES OF CONDUCT ORDER

E-87.1 October 23, 2007 Authority: School Act, sections 85(1.1) 168 (2) (s.1)

## Safe School Personnel

- Safe School Liaison
- Substance Use Liaison
- Youth Diversity Liaison
- District Social Worker Wrap

### Safe School Liaison

#### NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORK

Safe School Liaisons (SSL) perform a variety of proactive work which serves to enhance the safety and security of secondary schools throughout the School District. The work of an employee in this classification is distinguished from that of a Supervision Aide by the requirement to work with limited direction using skilled prevention and intervention techniques and by a greater degree of responsibility and individual decision making at the secondary school level.

Work typically includes patrolling the interior, exterior and surrounding area of the school facility at regular intervals to monitor and respond to inappropriate student behaviour and identify potential safety and security concerns. SSL's may also be required to respond to emergent situations requiring immediate and critical assessment and response. In addition, they may perform work which requires the utilization of conflict resolution strategies. This position involves substantial communication and interaction with students, staff, visitors and the RCMP. Responsibilities will vary depending on the school to which the employee is assigned.

SSL's work under the general supervision of the Manager, Safe Schools, but report directly to the school administrator.

#### TYPICAL RESPONSIBILITIES

To monitor student activity by patrolling the interior and exterior of school facility, including parking lots and surrounding areas as necessary. They develop a rapport with students, staff and other members of the school community through positive interaction and effective communication, to assist with identification of potential safety and security concerns. SSL's intervene where safe to do so, when student activities are inappropriate and report situations requiring follow-up. They also respond to emergent issues and concerns by assessing the situation, identifying and utilizing the most appropriate response to resolve the issue or concern.

Safe School Liaison's utilize conflict resolution and diffusing techniques as response strategies to assist students in resolving minor conflict as well as identifying visitors to the school during patrols. They also inquire as to the nature of their visit and either escort them to the office, or direct them to leave the property. SSL's will assist administrators with the identification and observation of activities and trends in the school which may pose potential risks to the safety and security of students, staff, visitors and the facility. Safe School Liaison's also report and document these safety and security concerns for administration while assisting administrators as necessary in the development of positive, proactive and/or reactive strategies to ensure schools remain safe, secure, enjoyable places for all staff and students. SSL's also perform basic first aid and complete forms including the Accident Report to Parents or Guardian, and Incident Report as necessary.

## Youth Diversity Liaison

### NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORK

The Youth Diversity Liaison (YDL) provides culturally sensitive, relevant support for diverse students and their families throughout the district, including a continuum of service for students and families experiencing challenging circumstances.

### ASSESSMENT

For students with behavioural problems, the YDL meets with the student and his or her family to help resolve issues that may be a factor in the behaviour, whether communication-related, generational, cultural or systemic. The YDL works to resolve barriers and promote academic success.

### REFERRAL

After the assessment, the YDL may refer the student and family to an appropriate, culturally sensitive community-based program and assists in making the connection with those resources. The community-based programs include:

- Pacific Community Resources Society** (*family counselling and employment programs*)
- OPTIONS Society** (*family counselling and early intervention*)
- PICS** (*youth employment and occupational training programs*)
- Surrey Delta Immigrant Services Society** (*employment and youth buddy programs*)

*\* In order to ensure the success of the program, the referral needs to be made at the time of suspension.\**

### INTERVENTION

The YDL can also provide one-to-one support to a student and family if an appropriate, culturally sensitive community resource is not readily available.

### AFTER-CARE

The YDL provides the community resource with valuable summary information about the student to ensure the most effective support, while respecting the student's privacy. The YDL is also there to provide ongoing support for the student and family when the student returns to school.

## PARENT SUPPORT

Parents are often deeply affected if their son or daughter displays high-risk or problem behaviour. The YDL provides support for parents or guardians by offering in-home conflict resolution and mediation, and other support the family may need. These supports may include:

- Family Mediation*
- Conflict Resolution*
- One-to-One Student Support*
- Employment Support*
- Recreational Opportunities*
- Group Mediation*
- Gang Awareness Education and Prevention*

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The YDL communicates and collaborates with the community in a variety of ways. The Liaison hosts public forums on topics such as parenting, communication and cultural issues and understanding the complexities of living in a multicultural community. The YDL also works closely with the Surrey RCMP Youth Section, Youth Intervention Program and the Safe School Liaisons to support and promote a safe and caring school environment.

## EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

The YDL provides classroom presentations on cultural and other topics aimed at assisting students in integrating and thriving in a multicultural environment. The YDL also provides classroom, parent, and professional presentations on Bullying, Internet Safety, and Youth Gang Prevention. *(More information is available on the presentation request form.)*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The YDL is a valuable resource for teachers, counsellors and administrators, providing cross-cultural and cultural sensitivity training along with presentations about culture-specific community support resources. *(More information is available on the presentation request form).*

## CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL

All referrals need to be communicated through Principals, Vice Principals, District Resource Counsellors or RCMP Youth Section Officers. Youth and/or parents need to be informed that they are being referred. Youth and/or parents need to be active participants.

## Substance Use Liaison

### NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORK

To provide a consistent, relevant drug and alcohol program throughout the district including a solid continuum of service for substance-using youth and families.

### ASSESSMENT

If a student is caught in possession or under the influence of drugs or alcohol at school, the Substance Use Liaison (SUL) meets with the student to assess his or her drug usage.

### REFERRAL

Following the assessment, the SUL assists the student in finding specialized community support, if necessary. Community-based programs include:

- Pacific Community Resources**
- Astra Drug and Alcohol Counselling Program*
- Prevention and Education Program*
- Surrey Mental Health and Addictions**
- Peace Arch Community Services**
- Addiction Services*

*\* In order to ensure the success of the program, the referral needs to be made at the time of suspension.\**

### INTERVENTION

If a student is unwilling to change his or her usage and would not make a suitable referral to an outside resource, he or she would continue to be supported by the SUL team through our drug education program. Recognizing that students are at different stages in their efforts towards meaningful change, the SUL will remain committed to working with students who resist community resource intervention.

### AFTER-CARE

The SUL provides the referral source with an *“involvement summary”* that outlines the student’s attendance, participation and any outside referrals made while still respecting the student’s right to confidentiality. The SUL also provides ongoing one-to-one support following the student’s return to school.

### PARENT SUPPORT

Team members support parents/guardians as they try to deal with their son or daughter’s substance abuse.

### **CAMPUS AWARENESS**

We involve students in projects that focus attention on the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and the problems of dependency.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The Substance Use Liaison team works collaboratively with the community by hosting public forums on topics such as drug categories / effects, paraphernalia and addiction. We also work closely with the Surrey RCMP Youth Section, Youth Intervention Program and Safe School Liaisons to maintain a safe and caring school environment.

### **EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT**

Presentations are available for classrooms on all topics that relate to drug use, prevention and education. *(Please see the presentation request form for further information.)*

### **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

The SUL is available to provide professional development for teachers, counsellors and administrators on topics such as drug categories/effects, paraphernalia, etc. *(Please see presentation request form for further information.)*

### **PEER EDUCATORS**

The Substance Use Liaison program will be developing a peer-based education program in which students will assist in the delivery of substance use prevention material.

### **CRITERIA FOR REFERRAL**

All referrals need to be communicated through either via the Principal, Vice Principal, District Resource Counsellor or RCMP Youth Section Officer. Youth need to be informed that they are being referred.

## **District Social Worker (DSW) – Wrap Program**

### **NATURE AND SCOPE OF WORK**

The District Social Worker for the Surrey Wrap Program supports at-risk students and their families when students are associating with, or entrenched in youth gang behaviour.

### **ASSESSMENT**

The DSW will assist with the planning and monitoring of individual behaviour plans and community care/support plans for students experiencing challenges to pro-social living and decision making; this may include the assessment of the appropriateness of referrals for a wide range of educational and community supports.

### **INTERVENTION**

The DSW will work to address issues of family functioning, and work to reduce and remove barriers and dysfunction while mediating between systems (i.e. family, school and community). They will facilitate the transition of students exiting the WRAP program and/or work with the appropriate district staff to develop effective transitional plans. The DSW will also work with youths, families, and the school district staff as appropriate to assist students to meet their graduation requirements.

The DSW will provide support in specific areas related to the WRAP project such as assisting in the development of exit strategies for WRAP students, the development and review of care plans for WRAP students, or support and consultation with members of the Surrey WRAP program and its Advisory Council; the DSW will also assist Student Support Services and WRAP personnel with the appropriate school placements for the students that may potentially shift school cultures upon enrolment.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

The DSW will also liaise with other statutory and non-statutory agencies to create partnerships and supports for youth involved in the WRAP Program, as well as liaising with appropriate Surrey School District staff to facilitate required assessment and screening for students with the appropriate district resources and staff. The DSW will provide consultation to school personnel in developing effective interventions for students with high risk and intensive behaviours and will advocate for community support service for youth and families where appropriate and available.

# Safe Schools Programming

## PSST Website

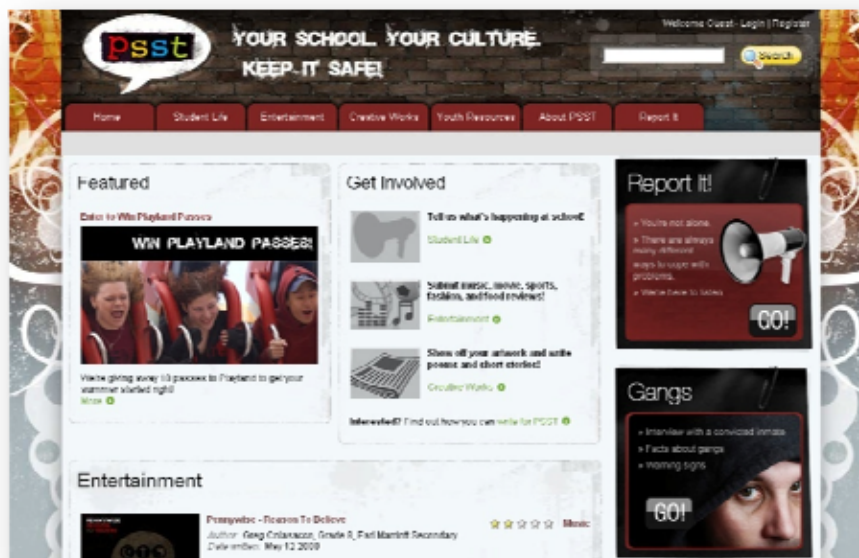
PSST is a unique, innovative website designed by Surrey School District in partnership with the Surrey RCMP and sponsored by the BC Lions. The primary goal is to encourage students to get personally involved in ensuring the safety and security of their school. The site was designed for students who want to discuss school safety issues but want to remain anonymous.



It is the first website of its kind in Canada and is a great resource for young people who now spend a lot of time on the computer or internet. It includes an on-line “REPORT IT” tip box which allows students to confidentially report dangerous or illegal activity such as bullying, vandalism, drugs or other issues happening at their schools or in their community.

In addition to safety related issues, the site provides an opportunity for young writers to practice their craft and post stories publicly. Surrey students participate in the design and content of the site on an ongoing basis to promote student ownership, relevance and participation.

Tour this website at: [www.psst-bc.ca](http://www.psst-bc.ca)



## Bridges

Bridges is a pilot project funded by Health Canada running at two Surrey high schools. Since its inception in September 2009, the Bridges program has focused on reducing the anxiety some students may experience with their transition from elementary to secondary school. This is realized via a peer mentoring program in which high school



students are trained and assigned to groups of Grade 7 students, with the objective of reducing negative perceptions of secondary school, improving self-confidence and awareness of healthy alternatives to risky behavior. Mentors gain leadership experience and acquire valuable skills to add to their resumes for both work and post secondary opportunities.

## The Surrey Wrap Program

The Surrey WRAP program is a comprehensive and collaborative youth support program that targets students who are at-risk of joining gangs, or are engaged in gang activity. The program brings together several community partners in Surrey to provide longer-term, encompassing services and support. In doing so the WRAP team is able to extend their services into most facets of the youth's life including personal, family, school, peer and community—thus “wrapping” the student with a network of support and encouragement.

The WRAP team consists of Surrey School District staff who are extensively trained in youth intervention strategies, along with three full-time Surrey RCMP police officers. Support is also given by members of the B.C Integrated Gang Task Force. Together they lead youth gang education, prevention and training initiatives for students, school staff, parents and the community. Intake to the program is for students between the ages of 11 and 17 who are enrolled in any school in the Surrey School District and exhibit risk factors related to youth gangs.

Upon approval of their referral into the program a personalized care plan is created to address the exhibited risks. The team then works to ensure all elements of the plan, including those that involve the student's family, school and community are implemented and maintained. WRAP takes 60 students a year to their case load and works with individuals for up to three years.

Referrals to the Surrey Wrap Program can be made by school administrators, the Surrey RCMP, Surrey Youth Probation, the Ministry of Children and Family Development, and Surrey based Youth Service agencies.

## First Step

First Step is a unique school-based program aimed at enhancing communications between parents, children and their community around issues related to guns, gangs and violence. This student-led project provides opportunities for youth to present to, and engage with their



parents about these issues, while developing a range of skills that build resilience to gang recruitment and connectedness to school and family. First step involves students facilitating parent evenings about violence issues using interactive one-on-one strategies.

With the assistance of Surrey School District staff, along with the development of a comprehensive training manual, students are provided with the training that they need to effectively engage their parents in

discussions about gangs, gun and violence. First Step supports the goals of the Health and Career personal planning objectives and is targeted to youth in Grades 6 and 7, an age when it is particularly important to provide opportunities for young people to engage in communication with their families around societal issues.

Individual school requests for this program can be made directly to Safe Schools.

## iR3 – Alternative to Suspension

iR3 (*Intervention, Rethink, Refocus, Reintegrate*) is a program that offers an alternative to the traditional suspension program that the Surrey School District has previously relied solely on. Launched in April 2007 to a group of “pilot” schools, iR3 uses a two-day workshop strategy instead of at-home suspensions. At-risk youth attend various preventative workshops presented by District Substance Use Liaison staff. These workshops include topics such as violence prevention (bullying and gangs), internet safety and substance abuse prevention. This program provides an alternative tool for school administration and increases a student’s personal growth, leadership abilities, motivation and self worth.



Referrals to the iR3 program can be made directly to Safe Schools by school administrators.

## The S.A.M.E. Program



The *Surrey Appreciates Multi-Ethnicity* or S.A.M.E. project is set to launch in January 2011. This program will be a three-tiered district wide model designed to provide education, support and direct intervention as needed to at-risk ethno-cultural minority students, their parents, families, peers and members of the broader community.

The pilot project involves students from grades four to twelve within the Surrey School District. Initially S.A.M.E. will be piloted in select secondary schools and the associate elementary schools, one family of schools in each of the four areas of Surrey. As the project becomes more established in the initial schools, it will be expanded to all schools in the District. Over the three year term of the project, we fully expect 20,000 to 24,000 students, staff members, parents, and community members to be impacted, educated, and empowered by the S.A.M.E. Project.

### Partnership and Stakeholders

The S.A.M.E. program has strategically partnered with a number of agencies and organizations to initiate change and to increase our community's capacity to change. In order to create and sustain a meaningful change, these partners will work together to provide a continuum of support, resources and responses to issues of racism and discrimination. Within the Surrey School District the expertise of various dynamic departments that possess a clear track record of innovative and impactful responses to school and community challenges has been enlisted.

The objectives of the S.A.M.E. project are to build bridges and promote greater cross-cultural understanding among the diverse ethno-cultural, immigrant and non-immigrant students in the Surrey School District focusing on: social and cultural integration activities, student mentorship, leadership and volunteerism, and active participation of parents and community.

Individual school requests for this program can be made directly to Safe Schools.