

IS YOUR SCHOOL SAFE? AN ESSENTIAL CHECKLIST

By: Cheli Cerra, M. Ed.

School safety is everyone's business. When investigating your school of choice, can you answer **YES** to the following questions?

- Does the school appear to be clean and hazard-free?
- Does the school have a safety coordinator who is responsible for maintaining a safe and healthy environment?
- Does the school have a "safe" way for students to report a conflict, crime, or crisis (especially if another student might be involved)?
- Does the school have a crisis prevention plan in place?
- Does the school have procedures in place to respond quickly when a crisis situation does occur? Has the school informed parents, teachers, students, and the community as to what these procedures are?
- Does the school have a fair and consistent discipline procedure?
- Does the school have counselors and psychologists available to students in need?
- Does the school involve the community, teachers, students, staff, and parents in these safety efforts?

Investigating the answers to these questions will give you a better understanding of your child's school.

[For more information, read the Special Report "Parents Who Want Successful Children."](#)

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