Questions to Your Answers About School Safety

This pad of sticky-notes is a tool for students, parents, teachers, administrators, and everyone invested in creating safe schools. There is no “right” way to use this pad. Just peel the sheets, pass them out, and stick them up to start conversations wherever you are.

What are schools for?

How will safety decisions improve the wellbeing of our school community?

How does our school safety plan invite meaningful participation by the community?

How are students included in our decision-making about school safety? Are they in the room now?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>How are different students being treated differently?</th>
<th>What does it mean to be safe and feel safe?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What moves the experience of learning from fear to joy?</td>
<td>None of us are experts at this. And it’s messy. That’s how we learn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>What I love about my school is __________.</td>
<td>What actions can we take today that promote a sense of belonging?</td>
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What needs to be encouraged and why?

How can we ensure that our practices and policies are equitable to all students?

We talk a lot about making things safer, but what is the relationship between safety and wellbeing?

What more can we do to show we care for one another?

What is the problem again?

Not all of our students feel welcome at school. How can we tell? How can we fix this?
What makes our community a special place to live? How can we build on this?

What qualities of our community do we cherish? How are these nurtured in our school safety plan?

Let’s remember why we’re here.

What I love about my community is _______.

How can we create entryways to the school that are welcoming and affirming?

What is the impact of our safety policies on students’ mental health?
Is safety the same as security?

At what point does protection from threat become more important than enjoying life?

We need to change ___________ in order to ___________.

Where does our safety plan need to be and where are we now?

Picture yourself in a place you feel safe. What are the qualities of this place?

Walk through the school – inside and out. What areas are neglected? How could they be enlivened?
How do our safety policies make our students feel? Safer? Happier? More Inspired?

The most important issue to solve now is ________________.

How do we motivate our students to participate in school safety?

If we could start over, where would we start?

How will this safety plan impact others? Will implementing it strengthen our community?

Let’s look at this another way...
What do we need to unlearn about school safety?

How can our school provide more empathic spaces for students to unpack, discuss, and share experiences?

How can differences in culture, race, gender, and language be addressed in school safety efforts?

What about your own questions? Ask them.

What is the recipe to create an environment where all students can flourish?

Read the first part of your safety plan. What message is it sending? Does it carry a feeling of warmth and care?
Let’s take an honest look at our assumptions and question them.

Our safety policies don’t always feel good in practice. What can we do about that?

How is the whole community being included in our conversations about safety?

Is preventing harm a high enough standard?

What have we left out? Who are we forgetting?

What if ___________?