

Safe School Ambassadors®

SUSPENSION COST ANALYSIS

What is the cost of mistreatment or violence to a school?

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry reported in 2004 that approximately 50% of all children have been bullied while in school and that 10% of those that had been bullied were victimized on a regular basis.

For example, in 2000, seven percent of eighth-graders stayed home at least once a month because of bullying (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 2005). In 2005, six percent of students of all ages miss at least one day of school per month because they feel unsafe at school or going to or from school, which is up from 5.4% in 2003, and sharply up from 4.4% in 1993 (Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Comparative Online Report, 2005).

When mistreatment escalates into a fight or other suspendable offenses, the costs become very real.

Direct cost for suspensions

- Average Daily Attendance Funds Lost \$90
ADA @ \$30/day x 3 days
- Administrative Costs \$200
(fact gathering, witness interviews, calls, meetings, data entry, record keeping, filing)
4 hours @ \$50/hour (average)
- Total..... \$290**

Associated costs per suspension

- Lost contact with teachers
- Lost time on task
- Potential emotional repercussions
- Anxiety
- Sleep problems
- Eating disorders
- Possible retaliation and additional incidents
- Staff frustration

Annual cost for suspensions

100 suspensions	=	\$29,000
250 suspensions	=	\$72,500
500 suspensions	=	\$145,000
1000 suspensions	=	\$290,000

Safe School Ambassadors® program costs (for 40 Students)

Compared To ≈ \$6,100

\$4,300 program costs
\$800 average travel/accommodations expenses
\$1,000 substitutes stipends & other implementation expenses

If just 25 of 40 Ambassadors each prevents one suspension per year, the cost of implementing the Safe School Ambassadors program would be more than recovered

$$25 \text{ prevented} \times \$290 = \mathbf{\$7,250}$$