

Start a *Safe Schools Maryland* Chapter at Your High School!

Promote school/student safety awareness, kindness, and inclusion year-round by starting a chapter of *Safe Schools Maryland* at your high school. *Safe School Maryland* chapter members - known as Student Ambassadors - engage members of their school and greater communities by:

- organizing a school- or grade-wide event that focuses students on bullying, cyberbullying, depression, self-harm, or suicide; examples include welcoming *Safe Schools Maryland* or other speakers who can help address topics that influence school climate and/or the safety and well-being of students.
- consulting with school officials to place *Safe Schools Maryland* posters, stickers, or other promotional materials around the school building.
- promoting *Safe Schools Maryland* on social media and linking to Maryland Center for School Safety blog posts and/or social media posts that promote *Safe Schools Maryland*.
- designing/creating *Safe Schools Maryland* posters, flyers, or video/audio messages and sharing them with their community.
- encouraging fellow students to join chapter and become *Safe Schools Maryland* Student Ambassadors.
- writing articles promoting *Safe Schools Maryland* for their school newspaper/news website.
- being kind to students being bullied, including them, sitting with them at lunch or on the bus, talking to them at school, or inviting them to do something.
- composing regular announcements about issues that impact students (e.g., bullying, cyberbullying, all forms of violence, depression, anxiety) and promoting local, state, and/or national resources to support peers at risk and or the school at large.
- [coordinating a #NoOneEatsAloneDay](#), which teaches everyone how to make friends at lunch.
- creating an arts-integrated bullying and/or violence prevention program or an art exhibit featuring work by students that explore the topics of bullying and ending violence.
- developing activities that include a daily kindness challenge and weekly collaborative competition where working together is a key to success.
- establishing an event where everyone is invited to do something creative together.
- organizing event(s) where students read a book on the negative impact of bullying/violence and discuss.
- mentoring younger students in their community who may be experiencing or engaging in bullying.
- organizing a screening of a movie addressing peer mistreatment followed by a discussion.
- organizing a 'Safety Starts with Us' march to promote civility, mutual respect, and tolerance for those with different backgrounds or values.
- participating in *No Place for Hate* or similar school-wide program to improve and maintain a positive school climate so all students can thrive.
- practicing random acts of kindness at school.
- [running a #PositivePostitDay](#) to help flip the script on bullying.
- setting up a buddy support system for students who are new to the school.
- sharing inspirational messages that motivate students to act kindly toward each other.
- with permission of school officials, creating a large artwork that incorporates statements from the whole school community about standing together against bullying and all forms of violence.

To start a *Safe Schools Maryland* chapter at your high school you must:

1. Have at least three committed student leaders and an adult advisor who works at your school. At least one student leader must be an underclassman to ensure the sustainability of the chapter beyond the first year.
2. All founding student members must sign the Student Ambassador Pledge and have it signed by the chapter's adult advisor.
3. Your team must also register and become recognized as an official student group at your school.

Once all three steps listed above are complete, you may [register](#) to be officially recognized by the Maryland Center for School Safety as your school's *Safe Schools Maryland* chapter.