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Internet may help resolve school violence problem

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The same Internet that has been accused of spawning school violence may eventually help solve the problem.

Recent news of school violence in Colorado and Wisconsin indicates that we are far from having safe schools in America. Add to those news-making events the daily violence in scores of schools — as well as bullying among students that often goes unreported, but is serious all the same. School violence in its many forms is a national problem that will take networking among parents and professionals to solve.

The Internet has many sites addressing the issue in a serious and informative way.

The National Association of Attorneys General and the National School Boards Association have joined to address with the Youth Violence and School Safety Initiative and a new Web site, Keep Schools Safe at <http://www.keepschoolssafe.org>.

Educators who want help in putting together a safe school plan will find help here, as will parents wanting to do something about the issue. The site also lists other school safety resources on the Web.

The Center for the Prevention of School Violence was established in 1993 and is associated with North Carolina State University, but the work it does and the advice it offers can serve all schools in the country. You'll find the center's Web site at <http://www.cpsv.org>.

The site offers a variety of resources for educators and parents. You'll also find newsletters, research bulletins, research briefs and special feature articles on school violence.

The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center is a site sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other federal agencies. It targets the problem of school violence at <http://www.safeyouth.org/scripts/teens/school.asp> — and offers links to other sites that address the problem.

The National School Safety Center maintains a Web site at <http://www.schoolsafety.us>. The center trains educators, law enforcement personnel and other professionals who serve youth in the area of school crime prevention. The site offers a checklist of characteristics of violent youth as well as an updated "School Associated Violent Deaths Report."

A program called PeaceBuilders was initiated a few years ago by a Tucson, Ariz., psychologist and businessman. Since then, scores of schools nationwide have used it to build calm and reduce violence at schools. You can read more about the program at <http://www.peacebuilders.com>. The site contains examples of how schools have met the potential for violence with programs aimed at establishing school peace and security for students, parents, faculty and staff.

— Find something online you think others should know about? Or do you have a question? Let Dave Peyton know. His e-mail address is davepeyton@davepeyton.com. Distributed by Tribune Media Services.

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