The Five Most Dangerous Trends in School Discipline

How do we address them?
Schools are Facing Many Difficult Discipline Problems Today

Gangs, Guns & Vandalism,
Disrespect, Bullying, Sexting,
Tardiness, Drop-outs & Drugs
School Discipline Problems are Severe...Here are a Few Statistics

- 25% of schools reported illegal drug use
- 46% of schools reported student threat of physical attack
- 10% of city schools reported gang related crime
- 39% of middle schools reported school bullying occurred at least once weekly
- Three Major Factors Limiting Schools Efforts To Reduce Crime
  - Lack of Funds 25%
  - Inadequate Placement Programs
  - Government Policies for Disciplining Students

Crime, Violence, Discipline, and Safety in U.S. Public Schools 2009-2010 IES National Center for Education Statistics
These School Discipline Problems Are Continuing to Grow

Teachers, Parents, School Administrators and even Students are asking...

“Whose fault is it?”

“How do we fix it?”
Before We Can Fix It...
We Need To Know What Is Causing It

Is Anyone At Fault?

- Is It The Parents?
- Is It The Students?
- Is It The Teachers?
Everybody Wants To Blame The School Administration and Teachers

- from the PTA
- to the Media
- to the Parents
- to the Kids in your school

...and even some of your school staff.
So, Are Teachers and The School’s Administration to Blame?

No, They Are Not

It’s not the school’s fault, and it’s not the parents’ or students’ faults either.

Then......

Who Is Really To Blame?
School Discipline Problems Are Not Caused By ..... 

The Lack of Caring by Parents and Students 

The Lack of Effort of Teachers and School Administrators
The True Causes of School Discipline Problems are Beyond Everyone's Control

- School Discipline Problems Are Rising In Our Schools Due To Outside Factors

- These Outside Factors Are Beyond The Control of School Administrators, Teachers, Parents, Students and PTA
The Five Major Trends Why School Discipline is On The Rise

- **The Breakdown Of The Family**: Lack of Family Support
- **The Economy**: Loss of Jobs
- **The Government**: No Child Left Behind
- **Wall Street**: Mortgage/Real Estate Meltdown
- **Violence In The Media**: Music, Video Games, Movies, Etc.

None of These is The Fault of The School
The Breakdown of the Family

The Traditional Family Structure Has Vanished (between 1980 and 2000)

- 48% increase in Grandparents having to raise their grandchildren
- 20% increase in unmarried Fathers having to rear their children alone

http://childstats.gov/americaschildren/famsoc2.asp
The Economy...Job Troubles Leaves Kids Alone

(15.3 Million Children are Latch Key Kids)

- 4% of elementary school children (1,133,989) are unsupervised after school
- 30% of middle school students (3,722,219) are home alone
  - How many High School Students? ...too many to count.
Big Government Intervention...

More Work - Less Staff

The No-Child-Left-Behind Act was Enacted in 2001 to Ensure that All Children Had Equal Access To Education

- It Penalized troubled urban and rural schools districts who already were short staffed and lacking resources
- It Added additional workloads on overworked school teachers and administrations
- It Failed to fix the problem, but left troubled school districts in worse shape than before it was implemented
Collateral Damage: The Wall Street Mortgage Meltdown Of 2008 Hurt More than Individual Home Owners

- It put our country into a recession that put millions of individuals out of work
- The trickle down effect resulted in a tremendous reduction in the collection of real estate taxes, which Is the main financial support for most public school systems in America
- This resulted in school employee layoffs and hiring freezes
Who is Winning?
The Library, Television, Cable or Video Games?

- 11 Million People In The U.S. Can’t Read A Bus Schedule
- 33% Of High School Graduates Never Read A Book After High School
- 80% Of U.S. Families Didn’t Buy Or Read A Book Last Year

So Where Are 80% Of These Families' Kids Spending Most of Their Time?

They Are Being Entertained By The Violent Video Games, Music Videos And Movies Produced By The Media

- NY Times Many Going to College Are Not Ready, 2005 Report Says; Many Freshman Are Not Ready For College 2008
Okay, So We Did Not Cause These Discipline Problems...

But We Need To Fix Them

Can’t We Just Have The Teachers Deal With These Discipline Problems...

...It’s Their Problem Anyway, Isn’t It?
No...It Is The Responsibility of Us All to Fix The Discipline Problems in Our Schools

- Teachers
- School Administrators
- Parents

Working Together As A Team
How Do We Accomplish This?
Nothing Has Worked In The Past

That’s Okay, It’s not your fault, but your staff can be trained to fix your school’s discipline problems

You Just Need to Take a Different Approach
Step One
Realizing What You Don’t Know

The first step towards solving your school’s discipline problems and finding workable solutions is to realize:

- Your teachers are not trained to be psychologists or disciplinarians
- Your teachers may very well be fearful when in the school setting
- Your Administrators are not trained to be intervention specialists

Your staff has not been trained to solve discipline problems
You can’t learn how to ride a bike by reading a book...

You also can’t learn how to solve your school’s discipline problems by watching a discipline seminar on DVD.
You need a professional, experienced in working with school discipline problems, to help guide you in your decision making.

They should:

- interview you one-on-one to determine your true needs and to create a priority list
- educate you about the best practices for the implementation of a comprehensive, systematic, discipline training program for your staff
- help you to identify the key team players who will help you with implementation.
- help you to determine your budget

You need help finding a solution
Step Three

Understanding The Desired Outcomes of A Systematic Approach

- Teachers are trained to deal with 90% of the discipline incidents in class that are now sent to the principal’s office

- All staff (teachers, administrators and support staff) are using proactive researched-based strategies regardless of what the student says or does

- Students are treated fairly and consistently in terms of behavioral expectations and consequences

Solving your school’s discipline problems requires all faculty and staff to be on the same page
Step Four

Understanding That Implementing a Systematic Approach is Not a One Time Event

- A systematic approach to school discipline is designed to train your staff by implementing a series of seminars, group meetings and one-on-one training.
- This ensures that, by ongoing observations from the trainer as well as strategy repetition, the skills that are being taught become sustainable “tool” in teachers’ “toolboxes.”
- This is accomplished by revisiting the school over a period of months to monitor progress.

Systematic discipline training is an ongoing process, not an event.
Step Five
What To Look For When Interviewing School Discipline Professional Development Firms

- How long have they been in business?
- Can you speak with the owner?
- Can you call the references?
- Can you call the testimonial personnel?
- Will they give you a customer list?

- Do they offer onsite, ongoing training to ensure proper program implementation or only a one-time seminar?
- Are all their trainers current or former school administrators?
- Will they provide you with a free phone assessment of your current situation?
- Will they let you interview the trainer prior to contracting?

Understand the key questions to ask when interviewing professional development firms
More About The Education Company and its Discipline Professional Development for Schools?

Give us a call to schedule a free, confidential discipline review

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The Education Company is an educational, professional development service provider. It’s trainers work directly with school administrators, teachers, support staff, parents and students to help them solve the most pressing discipline problems within their schools.

"Solving School Discipline Problems One Intervention at a time"
Thomas Glanton  
*President of The Education Company*

Dr. Thomas Glanton understands that in order for learning to take place, schools must have discipline and order. As a former high school principal in an urban district in Atlanta, Georgia, Dr. Glanton continues to hone the art of school leadership in operations, instructional leadership, data analysis, and school performance. Through direct experience with the comprehensive discipline management program, Dr. Glanton transformed a Title One School and was named a Georgia PTA Principal of the Year. Now, as the President of The Education Company, formally known as Simmons and Associates, he concentrates his efforts in tough inner-city schools and has amazing results with all students.  
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Bert Simmons  
*Founder/Lead Consultant of The Education Company*

Bert Simmons, founder and president, is motivated by the conviction that we all have an obligation to young people to provide the best education possible. A humorous, dynamic and motivation speaker, Bert has been featured nationwide on television and radio and at national conventions, state conferences, and school districts of all sizes and types. His accomplishments have earned him numerous honors, including outstanding principal, teacher of the year and member of NASSP National Board of Directors. Thirty years ago he founded Simmons Associates—The Education Company to provide professional, proactive management skills and techniques for teachers, administrators and parents resulting in a better teaching environment where the focus is on teaching instead of discipline. He personally and through his company has helped more than 3000 schools improve the teaching climate in their schools.  
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