

Community Oriented Schools “Adopt A School Initiative”

Community Oriented Schools is a philosophical approach designed to address aspects of education regarding quality of life issues beyond the boundaries of school grounds.

The “Adopt A School Initiative” is a model program developed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and implemented throughout school districts in the United States. The models of the FBI “Adopt A School” Program often provide for periodic visits to schools where FBI volunteers and other resource personnel spend time with students, conducting presentations about the duties of law enforcement and serving as mentors and tutors in structured programming. All the “Adopt A School Initiatives” are based on volunteers acting as role models for all youth, while stressing the importance of obtaining a good education, living healthy and drug free, and abstaining from violent and/or criminal behavior.

Although there are numerous ways in which the various divisions of the FBI incorporate the program into their respective school districts, the Pittsburgh Division’s model incorporates the resources of a cast number of agencies and organizations, many of which presently work in partnerships with law enforcement.

The model not only addresses quality of life issues, but also attempts to bridge the gaps between the relationships of community members, schools and the FBI, while building partnerships with other federal, state, county, and local law enforcement and human service agencies, as well as the business community.

Historically, law enforcement efforts have been reactive in nature. The “Adopt A School Initiative” provides proactive and consistent programming that is presented so that there is a constant presence of resources in the school to work with the youth in solving aspects of their lives that place them “at risk.”

Mission Statement

To provide a comprehensive youth program that deals with multiple interrelated societal problems, including drugs, crime, gangs and violence, in support of the FBI’s “Adopt A School Initiative” in partnership with other federal , state, county and local law enforcement, as well as human service agencies and the business community.

Goals

The following are the goals of the “Adopt A School Initiative”

- To improve students’ performance and attendance.
- To encourage students to have a positive self image.
- To encourage students to choose a lifestyle free from crime, drugs, gangs and violence.
- To provide students with exemplary role models and/or mentors.
- To encourage students to become responsible and accountable citizens.
- To encourage students to explore and consider a career in law enforcement.

“Adopt A School” Advisory Board

Bell Atlantic Corporate Security

Charleston Job Service

Charleston Police Department

Charleston Town Center Security

Kanawha County OES

Kanawha County Prosecutors Office

One Valley Bank

South Central Regional Jail

U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

U.S. Courts, U.S. Probation

U.S. Secret Service
WV Attorney General's Office

WV Juvenile Services

WV Secretary of State's Office

WV State Fire Marshal's Office

WV State Police