

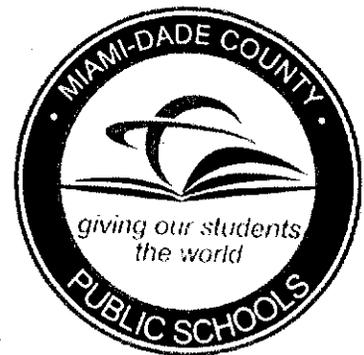
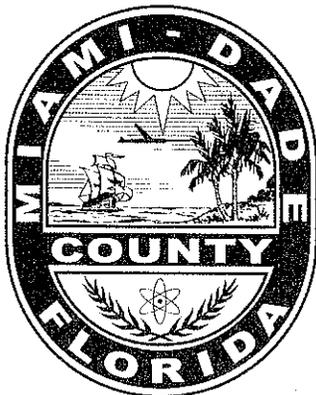
**Miami-Dade County and  
Miami- Dade County Public Schools**

**Joint Roundtable on  
Youth Safety**

**SPEAK OUT FOR CHANGE!**

**Teen Discussion Report  
May 28, 2013**

**Prepared by  
Miami-Dade Public Library System**



# Teen Discussion Report

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From May 21 – 23, 2013 three teen discussion groups were held and open to those 12-19 years of age. The discussions were held at three branches which were selected based on Miami-Dade's top ten zip codes for violent crimes, they are:

**North Dade Regional Library - 2455 NW 183 Street, Miami Gardens, FL 33056**

**Homestead Branch Library - 700 N. Homestead Blvd., Homestead, FL 33030**

**Model City Branch Library – 2211 NW 54 Street, Liberty City, FL 33142**

## Gross Results

A total of forty-seven teens qualified to participate in the discussion over the three day period. They were offered refreshments and received community service hours for their participation. See attached sign in sheet for demographic information about the attendees.

## Questions

Two questions were posed to the group – these are their responses:

### 1. What makes you feel safe in school? Why?

- Doors are locked.
- There is no violence.
- I feel safe - I don't feel anyone will shoot us up.
- No one is bullying us.
- My school is good – I go to Turner Tech.
- It's peaceful – Brownsville Middle.
- I don't feel safe – someone brought a gun.

### 2. What makes you feel safe outside of school? Why?

- Not afraid of other people, but there are a lot of people in the street, especially older people. Not scared of the, but don't like them around.
- I expect the worst – there are crazy people out there.
- Do not feel safe outside – at bus stop someone got beat up randomly.
- Random drive-bys.

## Recommendations

In addition to hearing their thoughts on why they feel safe in and out of school, the teens also provided their own solutions. These are their responses:

- **Better/more school security** – Overwhelming, the teens commented on school security guards. They felt that the guards were under trained and disengaged in helping to make the school safer. These are their direct quotes:

“Guards just look at kids – they don’t get involved until it’s too late. A girl was shot at middle school and the police monitored the school for two weeks – then stopped. They need to roam around and have more urgency when a fight breaks out – they act more like friends. They read, talk on their phone, ‘play favorites.’

**Recommendations:** Get them golf carts to patrol around the school. Put guards in classrooms where there are ‘pushover’ teachers. Guards are not powerful enough - give them law enforcement training, let them carry guns.

- Remove students who bring in drugs.
  - Smoke detectors.
  - Metal detectors.
  - Enforce class schedules – get to class!
  - Bathrooms need to be monitored – there are drugs, unsanitary, kids have sex there, this is where fights start.
  - Beautify the grounds – make the school prettier – kids will have pride.
  - Install CCTV cameras and fix broken ones.
  - More lights - some street lights not working.
  - Secure the gates.
  - ID missing – buy temporary IDs – enforce wearing ID badges.
  - Police dogs.
  - Teachers only teach when they are monitored – need to be monitored more. Provide teachers with bullying workshops.
  - Find younger counselors.
  - Have a hotline.
  - Get rid of textbooks – have computers, smart boards, MACs.
  - Have punishment for unsportsman like conduct - coaches get involved and they are setting a poor example.
  - Suspension is ‘stupid’ give students vacation is make them stupid –
- make them do community service, clean up something.
  - Initiated *Courtroom by Kids* – call their church, follow-up on community service.
  - Pay teachers more.
  - School schedules need improvement – separate subjects per day.
  - Red light cameras have radars in the sign near school, flash to slow down.
  - Care for the neighborhoods.
  - Fix rodent problem, stray dogs, clean up trash.
  - Everything is connected - solve the national debt problem.
  - Remove FCAT EOC and have more AP course.
  - Inspire parental involvement – this impacts student outcomes.
  - Have book clubs.
  - Teachers need to become more motivated.
  - Videos of kids fighting get posted on YouTube – need to stop. Kids who do this need to be punished.
  - Fix broken gates and doors so no one can get into school.
  - Need to be stricter on uniform enforcement. Central High kids can ‘infiltrate’ Turner because they have similar green shirt.
  - Free housing for homeless.
  - Better/more jobs.

- Turner Tech needs extracurricular activities – needs athletics.
- Neighborhoods need sidewalks to make it safer to walk home from school.
- Offer therapy to those who need it.
- Bully box.
- Stress release activities.
- Self-defense classes.
- Need programs to get/stay involved in so kids are off the street.
- Need parks and green spaces that are safe.
- Not enough places for teens.
- Get teens to do art/murals.
- Organize a community event.
- Bus drivers should not have access to their phones – they talk and text while driving.
- Find jobs for teens.
- House sexual predators.

**Discussion Workshop #1**  
**North Dade Regional Library – May 21, 2013**



**Discussion Workshop #2  
Homestead Branch - May 22, 2013**



**Discussion Workshop #3**  
**Model City Branch – May 23, 2013**

