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## SAFER SCHOOLS SYMPOSIUM

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### **What is the Safer Schools Symposium?**

The Safer Schools Symposium (SSS) brings a broad cross-section of key community, district/county/regional, and school-site leaders together with experts in the fields of school safety, violence prevention, and youth empowerment for a day of education, dialogue, and planning. Strategic improvements and collaboration occur during and after this effective day.

The Safer Schools Symposium (SSS) is designed to raise awareness and increase knowledge, showcase current best-practices within the district/county/region, foster collaboration, and produce action plans. The SSS includes most of the higher-level administrators from the district/county/regional office and each school site, as well as representatives from law-enforcement (community police specializing in youth crimes and issues), juvenile justice (staff and judges), gang task forces, mental health and guidance, youth-oriented community-based organizations and others involved in working to make schools and communities safer and more welcoming for all.

### **How long is it?**

It's a one-day symposium.

### **What is the structure?**

SSS includes interactive workshops and presentations of best practices utilized in schools. The day ends with strategic planning in district- and site-based groups.

### **Participants will:**

- increase awareness throughout the district/region/county of the broader role students can play in creating safer schools;
- learn how to deepen the commitment of school and community leaders to change policy and practice and take concrete steps to reach out to involve more students in these efforts.
- promote a greater student involvement as to reduce incidents of mistreatment and violence and improves school climate;
- develop strategies and plans for complementing and strengthening existing efforts for improving school safety and school climate and reducing violence;
- Increase collaboration among schools, youth-serving organizations, law enforcement, and local government by participating in activities that inform and inspire;
- share with one another the practices, strategies and programs that are already in place and learn what works and what hasn't;
- synchronize efforts with varied and multiple programs, site-based approaches;
- create an Action Plan with individual sites using the School Safety Self-Assessment Tool.

### **What to expect day of event?**

Community Matters will provide technical assistance including guidance and consultation to a team of district/county/regional staff responsible for planning the SSS, including:

- School Safety Self-Assessment Tool
- a timeline and checklist
- sample agenda/templates for events
- keynote speakers, event facilitator and suggestions for other speakers/presenters
- follow-up support

**Cost**

Range from \$2,700 - \$6,000.

**For more information**

Phone: 707-823-6159

Email: [outreach@community-matters.org](mailto:outreach@community-matters.org)