

**SANTA ANA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
 Student Forum – December 16, 2008  
 Response to Questions



1. What do you consider are the most pressing challenges that teenagers are faced within Santa Ana?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
Pregnancy, Gangs, Peer Pressure, Family Issues, Lack of Parent Involvement, Poverty, Homelessness, Safety to and from school, Drugs on Campus, Underage Drinking, Bullying, Tagging & Graffiti, Language Barriers, Violence, Lack of Role Models, Pressure to have Sex, Abuse, Teen Pregnancy	Provide more curriculum activities, speakers, and assemblies, communication/parent involvement, reach out to the students and provide motivation, provide after school tutoring programs for students with Language Barriers, provide school supplies for students in need, provide Gang Prevention workshops at schools for students	Provide information on clinics, employment, clean up tagging/littering, provide workshops/events for students on gang prevention, and open up libraries for parent workshops on Language classes, provide Youth Summer Programs for more job opportunities for families/students, provide more Toys 4 Tots" and other donation types of activities throughout the year instead of just during the holiday season

2. If feeling safe is a priority to you, what streets or places do you try to avoid to be safe?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
Bike trails, parks, homeless shelters, alleys, city buses and streets (Myrtle/Bishop/Harbor/Townsend/Highland/Pacific), Near Spurgeon School, Santa Ana High School area, Salvador Park, Delhi Park, Center/McFadden near Jerome Center, public restrooms	Avoid extending activities into late night because many students have to walk home, make students aware of dangerous and unsafe areas	Mandatory curfew for teens, improve lighting on bike trails, clean up graffiti, better maintenance of city streets, police presence on city streets, have neighborhood watch programs

3. If being active and having positive things to do helps you to stay motivated to come to school, what are some things that we can add to our current programs at school or within the community to keep you in school?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
Sports, a wider range of clubs (Belly dancers, gamers, graffiti art, etc.), ROP classes, Debate teams, leadership clubs, Guest speakers, rallies, and student centers, café/lounge hangouts	Dance, Sports and Theater programs, various clubs (AVID, ROTCC, Music, Drama, Boys/Girls Clubs, etc.), open library, sports at continuation schools, counseling to discuss financial aid/scholarships, self-esteem workshops, have spirit leaders for role models, Lower charges for dances and things so more kids can participate	Increase community and tutoring centers for homework and recreation, increase Mentoring and volunteer programs, have a Homework Center, increase transportation for work centers and schools, community based meetings to keep parents informed, self-esteem workshops

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4. To what extent is peer pressure a concern at your school and in your neighborhood?  
 and  
 5. What can the school do to help you handle the peer pressure that exists at your school?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
<p>There are many pressures at school but the extent of it is depends on who you are and if you are involved in gangs. A lot is gang related, there is also pressure on how you look, how you act, what kind of friends you have, pressure to drink and take drugs. A large percentage of students say yes when they really want to say no to these pressures out of fear because they want to feel safe.</p>	<p>Provide Counseling for support, a program like D.A.R.E. but continues into high school years, Strategies to improve self esteem, how to say "no", how to get out of a situation, staff should get to know students better so the peer pressure can be turned into a positive situation</p>	<p>The city/community can raise awareness with workshops and in-services at places where parent &amp; families can attend, stress workshops to deal with teen pressure, school, friends, parents, and homelessness, random days where a drug "sweep" goes on at schools, police and police dogs go to schools and check backpacks and lockers, increase control patrol around parks and community</p>

6. If the presence of drugs, alcohol and gang activity are a concern for the overall safety and security of the students at school, would you be in favor of having an Anonymous Tip Hotline or do you have any other ideas to share information?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
<p>Although students are scared to rat-out and speak their minds, there could be an anonymous Tip Hotlinewith some kind of incentive and also be anonymous.          No, it would be used in a bad way (for retaliation).          Recommend putting Comment box at school without putting name on comment.          Half of students did not feel comfortable with the Tip Hotline.</p>	<p>Create a place that is safe and secure for students to use; form close and confidential relationships with staff so you can talk to them and be safe anonymous Tips Hotline, metal detectors, drug sniffing dogs, more security, Comment box, once a month school survey with questions related to drugs, alcohol or gang activity to give school an idea of what is going on</p>	<p>The city/community can do a better job of informing and posting hotline information for families throughout the city</p>

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7. What can your teachers, school, school district and city do to help students avoid at-risk behavior and gang involvement?

Answers	Solutions	
	Santa Ana Unified School District	City of Santa Ana
<p>Teachers and staff should get to know students on a personal level. Students want role models and mentors that they can trust and have confidence in.</p>	<p>Teachers and staff should get to know students and become mentors to show that they care beyond academics, speakers in Middle School, parents look through "My Space" profiles training for teens/parents to understand "my space", teachers to be less judgmental but more open minded, teachers should be not only teachers of academics but also teachers of life by mentoring students, more information on drugs and its effect on the body, more strategies to deal with peer pressure, allow murals for "taggers" to do their art, have team build-up activities, leadership, self-esteem workshops, staff should get to know students better so the peer pressure can be turned into a positive experience</p>	<p>Increase availability and access to clubs and events that provide opportunities for students to do community service. Provide speakers and mentors to schools that actually have had experience with gangs and drugs and have overcome those things - students want to relate to the "real-deal", allow more non-profit organizations, mural projects</p>