

Begin the School Year by Reading Dr. Cathy Anthofer “The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen”

Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon's invites school principals to begin the school year by reading *The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen*. “It has been my mission to work with schools and school administrators to prevent violence on their campus and to assist in their emergency planning efforts for when the worst does happen.”

Dr. Anthofer-Fialon's eBook is written to help school administrators mitigate violence on their campuses and coordinate activities designed to include key staff. “Drawing on my experiences working with at-risk youth, I present how to create and coordinate “NOTICE” teams. These are teams of school employees trained to accept reports regarding concerning student behavior to investigate, intervene, engage, and eliminate violence before it occurs.”

The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen is not a guide on how to shelter children, how to “neutralize the threat”, or lock down your school. “This guide provides practical interventions to identify and subsequently stop violence before it escalates to deadly levels and to understand violence as more than incidents which involve weapons.”

At the end of each chapter are activities designed to bring awareness about how it feels to be a student in an American classroom. “I am not offering a magic plan. Instead my goal is to help principals focus on the kinds of violence students may be facing each day, while also explaining what prevention looks.”

To purchase your own copy of *The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen* visit the Safe to Learn Store
http://www.safetolearn.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html.

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Q &A with Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon

1. **Why did you decide write “*The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen*”?**

I wrote *The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen*, because violence in our schools can be prevented. This prevention can occur without the buying of another metal detector or hiring more security.

2. **How did you come up with the title?**

I chose this title, because I have read many guidebooks and heard many lectures explaining how to respond to violence, how to lock down. Investing so many resources in responding to violence doesn't seem the answer. Preventing violence is where our energy is best spent.

3. **What do you hope the principals, APs and members of their school response teams will discover from reading your guide and participating in the exercises?**

How, despite their busy and crazy schedules, violence prevention is possible and within reasonable resource reach.

4. **Is there any message you would like to share with all principals?**

You are the gatekeeper in keeping our children safe. Thank you.



About *The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen*

It is Dr. Anthofer-Fialon's mission to work with schools and school administrators to prevent violence on their campuses.

The Best Response to Violence in Your School Is the Response which Never Has to Happen is not a guide on how to shelter children, how to “neutralize the threat”, or lock down your school. This guide provides practical interventions to identify and subsequently stop violence before it escalates to deadly levels and to understand violence as more than incidents which involve weapons.

This practical guide involves everyone who is in contact with the school, teachers, parents, students, alumni, community people, business owners and local government officials.

At the end of each chapter you will find an exercise. The exercises are for principals, assistant principals and/or members of their school crisis team to complete. Each exercise is designed to have them experience, maybe briefly, how it feels today to be a student in an American classroom.

**The saying “it takes a village to raise a child” applies here.
It takes a village to keep our children safe.**



Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon **Program Manager Michigan 13th Circuit Court, Family Division**

Dr. Cathy Anthofer-Fialon is an educator, an innovator, and a leader in violence prevention. She has held leadership roles in higher education, sexual assault/domestic violence crisis intervention, and empowering both children and adults. Working with Lighthouse School Safety, she currently utilizes her 22 years of working professionally to advise, train, and collaborate with school administrators and like-minded professionals to impact school violence. As the Program Manager for the Grand Traverse County 13th Judicial Circuit Family/Probate Court she works to keep the most vulnerable in her community safe.

She was the first female president of Indiana Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, chaired a white paper committee for International Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, co-authored an article for the International Association of Emergency Managers' publication, *The Bulletin*, and has made countless presentations raising awareness that everyone is part of the solution to end interpersonal violence.

She holds a PhD from Capella University in criminal justice and a Master's degree from Eastern Michigan University with concentrations in education and emergency management. She is a certified Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) trainer and adapted the program for implementation in a rural school district in Haiti.

She traveled to Haiti in 2004, training 22 teachers and administrators in the rural school. She returned in 2010, after the earthquake, with a team of trainers to offer additional training and support. She is committed to giving every student a safe place to learn.



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