

## Checklist of Characteristics of Youth Who Have Caused School-associated Violent Deaths

After much research, the National School Safety Center devised this checklist to assist school administrators, teachers, mental health professionals, and support staff in identifying potentially violent children. Besides helping to get the identified children into counseling or other referral sources, the behavior checklist helps to provide an early warning signal that safe school plans and crisis prevention/intervention procedures must be in place to protect the health and safety of all school students.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Has a history of tantrums and uncontrollable angry outbursts.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ Characteristically resorts to name calling, cursing, or abusive language.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Habitually makes violent threats when angry.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Has previously brought a weapon to school.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ Has a background of serious disciplinary problems at school.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ Has a background of drug, alcohol, or other substance use.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Is on the fringe of his/her peer group with few or no close friends.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ Is preoccupied with weapons, explosives, or other incendiary devices.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ Has previously been truant, suspended, or expelled from school.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ Displays cruelty to animals.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ Has little or no supervision or support from parents or other adults.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ Has witnessed or been a victim of abuse or neglect in the home.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Has been bullied and/or bullies or intimidates peers or younger children.
14. \_\_\_\_\_ Tends to blame others for difficulties and problems s/he causes her/himself.
15. \_\_\_\_\_ Consistently prefers TV shows, movies, or music expressing violence.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ Prefers reading materials dealing with violent themes or abuse.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ Reflects anger, frustration in school essays or writing projects.
18. \_\_\_\_\_ Is involved with a gang or an anti-social group on the fringe of peer acceptance.
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Is often depressed and/or has significant mood swings.
20. \_\_\_\_\_ Has threatened or attempted suicide.

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