

Reimagine School Safety Activity Guide

*a.k.a. Answers to Your Questions About How to Use the
Questions to Your Answers About School Safety Post-it Packs*

This activity guide is designed to be used with the *Questions to Your Answers About School Safety Post-it Packs* that were produced by the Stanford d.school K12 Lab. If you do not have the post-its, you can access a digital set or download printable paper versions for free at: dschool.stanford.edu/resources/safety

It is important to note one key rule:

There is no “right way” to use these post-its.

They are designed to be more provocative than prescriptive.

You might consider using these...

- ★ As your school or district is renewing or creating its School Safety Plan.
- ★ At the beginning of a new school year to open important conversations about community safety.
- ★ After an incident that has raised new questions about school safety procedures.
- ★ In any other moment when student and community wellbeing is on your mind and heart.

If you are looking for specific ways to use the *Questions to Your Answers About School Safety Post-it Packs* to advance thinking, conversations, and action at your school, the following objectives and proposed activities may be helpful. Please use these as starting points from which to craft your own plans.

Learning Objectives:

These questions and this activity guide are designed to...

- ★ Stimulate an exchange among members of your school community about school safety.
- ★ Build shared understandings of what safety means amongst diverse stakeholders.
- ★ Promote the idea that everyone has a role and responsibility for creating and maintaining school safety.
- ★ Unearth attitudes, spark new relationships, and identify new strategies for how members of the school community can contribute to the overall quality of the learning environment while creating a safe school.

Guardrails:

We recommend starting with this set of group agreements. If your school has additional community norms, please add those. (If you would like to establish community norms together, consider using this resource from the K12 Lab: <https://dschool.stanford.edu/resources/norms>)

- ★ Turn off cell phones and any other external distractions.
- ★ Listen fully.
- ★ Respect and seek to understand everyone’s opinion, particularly if you don’t share it.

Activities

Several activities are described below. Feel free to try any and all of them..

On-Your-Own Solo Activity (30-60 minutes)

1. Go through the post-it notes and pick out the ones that are most meaningful for you.
2. Put these up as reminders to yourself of what you care about and what you are hoping to learn more about as you work on designing for safety at your school.
3. Put them up in places where others whom you think need to see them will.
4. Give them directly to those who might be affected by them: fellow students, teachers, parents, school administrators, and members of the school community at large.
5. Add a note about why you are sharing the particular question or prompt that you choose to share. What are you hoping for them to consider? How would you like them to respond? How are you prepared to act on the ideas they share?

With Your Own Cohort (45-90 minutes)

1. Invite a small group of colleagues that you work with regularly.
2. Before the activity begins, spread out the post-it note questions and prompts on a wall or table (if you are conducting this activity virtually, use [the website](#) instead of a wall).
3. Gather a group of two to twelve peers in a circle.
4. Start with each person saying their name (if they don't already know each other) and sharing what they love about the school. (If time allows, go around again.)
5. Write all responses down and, if possible, put them up somewhere visible for all to see (if you are conducting this activity virtually, this could be in a group chat or a separate document/virtual collaboration space).
6. Ask each participant to visit the wall or table where the post-its are displayed, to read each, to pick a question for the group to discuss, and to bring it back to the circle.
7. Simply go around the circle, inviting each member to read their question and share for one minute their thoughts on it. (Feel free to adjust the timing here based on the number of people in the group and the amount of time you have.)
8. Go around the circle again, with each person offering at least one new thing they learned from their peers.
9. Invite each participant to create a new question, offer it aloud to the group, and add it to the wall of questions (please submit all new questions to the website: <https://reimagineschoolsafety.org/ask.php>).
10. Review the session and answer the following questions:
 - a. In what ways was the session useful, enlightening, and/or fun?
 - b. How might the session be improved?
 - c. What did you most appreciate about the person on your left?

With a Cross Section of the School Community (45-90 minutes)

1. Invite as diverse a cross section of your school community as possible. Include students, teachers, school administrators, front office staff, custodians, security guards, counselors, families, district administrators, neighbors, and school board members.

2. Before the activity begins, spread out the post-it note questions and prompts on a wall or table (if you are conducting this activity virtually, use [the website](#) instead of a wall)..
3. Gather your group in a circle. If participants have grouped near those with similar roles (e.g. students near students and teachers near teachers), invite participants to “scramble the circle” by making eye contact with someone at a different point on the circle and trading places.
4. Invite each group member to say their full name, their role in the school, what they love most about their job or position and what they feel their greatest challenge is with respect to school safety.
5. Write all responses to those final questions down and, if possible, put them up somewhere visible for all to see (if you are conducting this activity virtually, this could be in a group chat or a separate document/virtual collaboration space).
6. Ask each participant to visit the wall or table where the post-its are displayed, to read each, to pick a question for the group to discuss, and to bring it back to the circle.
7. Simply go around the circle, inviting each member to read their question and share for one minute their thoughts on it. (Feel free to adjust the timing here based on the number of people in the group and the amount of time you have.)
8. Go around the circle again, with each person offering at least one new thing they learned from their peers.
9. Invite each participant to create a new question, offer it aloud to the group, and add it to the wall of questions (please submit all new questions to the website: <https://reimagineschoolsafety.org/ask.php>).
10. Review the session and answer the following questions:
 - d. In what ways was the session useful, enlightening, and/or fun?
 - e. How might the session be improved?
 - f. What did you most appreciate about the person on your left?