



# San Francisco School Crisis Support Initiative

**NICJR**★  
National Institute for  
Criminal Justice Reform

The National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform (NICJR) has partnered with the San Francisco Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) and the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) to develop the [School Crisis Support Initiative](#) (SCSI). This comprehensive school crisis response and coordination effort seeks to identify youth who have been or are likely to become involved in major incidents on school campuses (such as large fights, group conflicts, and instances of bringing firearms on campus) and engage them in effective interventions. By focusing resources and interventions on this relatively small but critical population, San Francisco aims to maximize its impact on reducing overall youth violence.

Led by [DCYF](#) and [NICJR](#), SCSI brings together a strategic network of public and private institutions to effectively address the complex challenges associated with youth violence. Partners include [SFUSD](#), the [Juvenile Probation Department](#) (JDP), [UCSF Wraparound Project](#), and community-based organizations (CBOs) funded by DCYF to field School Violence Interrupters and Life Coaches on school campuses. The funded CBOs are [Community Youth Center of San Francisco](#), [Instituto Familiar de la Raza](#), [Samoan Community Development Center](#), [Urban Services YMCA](#), and [Young Community Developers](#).

SCSI School Violence Interrupters are trained in de-escalation and conflict resolution, and they come from backgrounds similar to those of the students they serve. These individuals build relationships with students and school staff, engage youth in positive activities, intervene to prevent conflicts or interrupt them from becoming larger and more violent, and provide students with ongoing services such as court advocacy and resource referrals. Since 2022, School Violence Interrupters have helped resolve incidents that include threats, fights, and assaults.

A coordination team within DCYF meticulously tracks social media activity, neighborhood conflicts, and school incidents to identify emerging threats and pinpoint the individuals most likely to be involved in or affected by violence. Once an emerging threat is identified, or when a major event occurs, key stakeholders come together to assess the situation and develop a plan to respond. Schools, CBOs, and the JPD contribute vital information about at-risk youth, enabling the SCSN to develop tailored intervention plans. This collaborative approach ensures a comprehensive and coordinated response to youth crises.

The SF School Crisis Network emphasizes accountability and continuous improvement. By tracking key performance indicators such as reductions in youth violence incidents, hospitalizations, and arrests, the City is able to assess the model's effectiveness and identify areas for enhancement.

## School Crisis Network Process

*Partnership of School District, City, and Community Organizations*

 SCHOOL SITE PROCESS  
 CRISIS SUPPORT PROCESS

### High-Risk Incident Occurs at school

- Person brings a weapon to school.
- A gang/group/violence-related conflict occurs or is brewing.
- There is a social media threat that may escalate.

### Local School Internal Response

School follows normal protocols for disciplinary actions, while also identifying students who may be at **high risk** of either escalating or becoming victims of the situation.

### School Site Intervention

School site works with intervention teams around de-escalation strategies, while providing space for community programming support for key high-risk individuals involved.

### CBT Life Skills Class

Student participates in weekly CBT life skills classes to support making better decisions while achieving better outcomes.

### Community Supports & Services

Life Coach connects youth and family to community organizations to offer support and services.



### Citywide Intervention Teams Notified

- Intervention teams are notified of the incident.
- Team members are deployed to the school site to support the initial mediation efforts and gather info to understand the root of conflict.

### School Crisis Network Coordination Meeting

Partners discuss district-wide weekly high-risk incidents to determine strategic intervention strategies along with allocation of resources.

- Teams develop weekly intervention strategies.

### Safety Meeting

School officials, Intervention Worker, and community provider sit down with high-risk individual and family to discuss their safety issues and offer them an opportunity for services and support.

### Intensive Life Coaching

- Student is assigned a Transformative Mentor (Life Coach).
- Life Coach builds a trusting relationship while connecting student to services, opportunities, and supports. Life Coach also guides student through critical-decision moments and supports them in achieving better individual outcomes.
- Caseload progress updates are reviewed and discussed at Weekly Case Conferences.