Violence in Schools:
Identification, Prevention & Intervention Strategies

Introduction
Welcome to Violence in Schools, an interactive computer-based instruction course, designed to give you a better understanding of school violence and increase your interventions strategies. Violence in Schools provides a foundational understanding of violence and the motivational purposes behind aggression. The correlation with and impact of the media, community and family upon violence will be investigated. The course teaches identification and intervention approaches for working with out-of-control behaviors. In addition, each student will receive information on available national resources for both parents and teachers. This course will help each person to increase his or her understanding of violence, the motivations behind the use of violence and specific strategies to minimize the occurrence of violence in a school and community.

This computer-based instruction course is a self-supporting program that provides instruction, structured practice, and evaluation all on your home or school computer. Technical support information can be found, in the Help section of your course.

Course Materials
Title: Violence in Schools: Identification, Prevention & Intervention Strategies
Instructor: Dr. Michael Sedler
Publisher: Virtual Education Software, inc. 2000, Revised 2004, Revised 2010

Academic Integrity Statement
The structure and format of most distance-learning courses presume a high level of personal and academic integrity in completion and submission of coursework. Individuals enrolled in a distance-learning course are expected to adhere to the following standards of academic conduct.

Academic Work
Academic work submitted by the individual (such as papers, assignments, reports, tests) shall be the student’s own work or appropriately attributed, in part or in whole, to its correct source. Submission of commercially prepared (or group prepared) materials as if they are one’s own work is unacceptable.

Aiding Honesty in Others
The individual will encourage honesty in others by refraining from providing materials or information to another person with knowledge that these materials or information will be used improperly.

Violations of these academic standards will result in the assignment of a failing grade and subsequent loss of credit for the course.

Level of Application
This course is designed to be an informational course with application to work and work-related settings. The intervention strategies presented in this course may be generalized to all students (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) and adults. While an intervention may be geared toward a specific age population, with minimal modifications an educator should be able to adapt the strategy for his or her students.

**Course Objectives**
- To identify factors contributing to violent behaviors
- To develop strategies to address school/community violence
- To effectively intervene, provide safety and minimize violent actions
- To develop a “school violence” assessment with specific intervention strategies
- To assess the climate of the classroom and school, making the necessary adjustments to increase safety
- To address preventative methods within the school system for students
- To write out an action plan for school safety
- To complete a formal written evaluation of the school’s violence plan after implementation

**Course Description**

Anger management strategies have become an important topic in schools, businesses, homes and communities. Our society is inundated with classes, books and counseling programs that explain various ways to “manage anger.” Despite our best attempts, aggression and violence are still on the rise. We regularly hear and read from various media sources how dangerous our society has become, especially our youth population. This class will focus on developing new ways of handling violence without getting involved in the typical power struggles. During this course, each person will learn specific strategies and practical ideas to aid in the reduction of school violence. Key intervention ideas for developing a civil climate within each school will be presented, and identification and recognition of potential violence will be discussed. Included in this approach will be an emphasis on safety for students and educators. This course is not attempting to be a “cure all” or “fix it” approach, but will aid educators in their ability to develop a safer environment in a school and community. In addition, it will help each person feel more qualified and capable of handling emerging violent behaviors within a school, home or community setting.

The course is divided into four chapters. The intent of this course is to help each student “walk” through the process of assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation in the arena of violence. There are numerous worksheets that all students will be asked to complete for their own knowledge base. Throughout the course, role-play situations will be presented to help each person recognize violent tendencies prior to their development into violent behaviors. The chapters are sequential and should be completed in the order in which they are presented. At the conclusion of each chapter, the student will be asked to complete an examination covering the material. This type of approach will help all students gain a better understanding of what they have learned as they proceed through the course.

**Student Expectations**

As a student you will be expected to:
- Complete all assignments and activities for the course *Violence in Schools*.
- Complete the chapter exam on **Assessment** with 70% accuracy or better.
- Complete the chapter exam on **Planning** with 70% accuracy or better.
- Complete the chapter exam on **Implementation** with 70% accuracy or better.
- Complete the chapter exam on **Evaluation** with 70% accuracy or better.
- Complete a course evaluation form at the end of the course.

**Chapter 1: Assessment**
1. Introduction
2. Statistics
3. Types
5. Why Escalating Violence, Part II
6. Media
7. Reasons
8. Characteristics
9. Warning Signs

http://www.virtualeduc.com/html_syllabus/VIS/VIS_UP3_syllabus.htm 1/16/2015
10. Self-Awareness Activity
11. Learned vs. Instinctive
12. Gang Assessment Tools
13. Anger/Aggression Activity
14. Possible Motives

Chapter 2: Planning
1. Behavior Response
2. How to Respond
3. Avoiding Power Struggles
4. Tips
5. Controlling Anxiety
6. Control and Direct Activity

Chapter 3: Implementation
1. Action Steps for Students
2. Action Steps for Teachers
3. Action Steps for Parents
4. Action Steps for Schools
5. Patterns of Aggression
6. Preventing Behavior
7. Making Peace
8. Decision Making Activity
9. Confrontation Communication
10. Changing Behavior
11. Prevention Strategies
12. Conflict Negotiation
13. Crisis Planning Guidelines
14. Possible Interventions
15. Anger: It Won’t Work Here

Chapter 4: Evaluation
1. Case Study
2. Identifying the Threatened
3. Watch your Language
4. Resources

Examinations
At the end of each chapter, you will be expected to complete an examination designed to assess your knowledge. You may take these exams a total of three times. Your last score will save, not the highest score. After your third attempt, each examination will lock and not allow further access. Your final grade for the course will be determined by calculating an average score of all exams. This score will be printed on your final certificate. As this is a self-paced computerized instruction program, you may review course information as often as necessary. You will not be able to exit any examinations until you have answered all questions. If you try to exit the exam before you complete all questions, your information will be lost. You are expected to complete the entire exam in one sitting.

Instructor Description
Dr. Michael Sedler has presented seminars and classes throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada. Dr. Sedler has worked as an administrator, behavior specialist, teacher and social worker within the public school setting. Dr. Sedler is an adjunct professor for two universities in the state of Washington and has been a professor for a college in Georgia. He has been a consultant for governmental agencies and worked for a state correctional facility for juveniles and for a community mental health agency. His 15 years of public education experience combined with business experience increases his knowledge base for course delivery. He has presented in schools, hospitals, residential settings and for businesses in the public and private sectors.

Contacting the Instructor
You may contact the instructor by emailing Dr. Sedler at michaels@virtualeduc.com or by calling him at 509-891-7219, Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PST. Phone messages will be answered within 24 hours. Phone conferences will be limited to ten minutes per student, per day, given that this is a self-paced instructional program. Please do not contact the instructor about technical problems, course glitches, or other issues that involve the operation of the course.

**Technical Questions**

If you have questions or problems related to the operation of this course, please try everything twice. If the problem persists please check our support pages for FAQs and known issues at www.virtualeduc.com and also the Help section of your course.

If you need personal assistance then email support@virtualeduc.com or call (509) 891-7219. When contacting technical support, please know your course version number (it is located at the bottom left side of the Welcome Screen) and your operating system, and be seated in front of the computer at the time of your call.

**Minimum Computer Requirements**

Please refer to VESi’s website: www.virtualeduc.com or contact VESi if you have further questions about the compatibility of your operating system.

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**Refer to the addendum regarding Grading Criteria, Course Completion Information, Items to be Submitted, and how to submit your completed information.**

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**Bibliography (Suggested Readings)**


*Course content is updated every three years. Due to this update timeline, some URL links may no longer be active or may have changed. Please type the title of the organization into the command line of any Internet browser search window and you will be able to find whether the URL link is still active or any new link to the corresponding organization's web home page.*

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