

Bruce Reed

USA Today Interview

~~Education~~
Crime - ~~the~~
School ~~the~~
Violence

The Headline should be "We must first make our schools safe."

The central theme should be the same as the Education Summit -- We need school reform and tough standards but none of that matters unless our schools are safe.

Q: What will you do to reduce School Violence?

A: Over the last 3 years we have been working to make schools safer and drug free:

1) We strengthened and expanded the **Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act** and schools districts have used these funds to keep violence, drugs, and alcohol away from students and out of schools;

2) I signed a Directive enforcing "**zero tolerance**" for schools across the country --- you bring a gun to school, you don't come back;

3) My **100,000 new community police officers** pledge has already funded 43,000 new police officers -- many of whom patrol in and around schools;

4) And we have urged schools to adopt **school uniform policies** that promote discipline and respect and have proven to lead to reduced crime and drug use at schools.

But we need to do more:

1) That is why this week I announced that I am sending new comprehensive **Anti-gang/Youth Violence legislation** to Congress that will help make schools gang-, gun-, and drug-free;

2) We need to **make it easier for teachers and schools to take appropriate disciplinary actions**. More states should follow the lead of Indiana, New York and Maryland in giving teachers and schools the power to remove disruptive students;

3) We need more communities to **enforce tough truancy laws** and follow the model of Charleston Police Chief Reubin Greenberg and the Oklahoma City Public School system.

NOTE: Riley wants us to emphasize #2 and #3 and they are newsworthy.