



Empowered Student Partnerships

Élèves Super Partenaires

Thousands of Toronto's high school students have taken leadership roles in their school communities by participating in Canada's largest student-driven high school safety program, Empowered Student Partnerships (ESP).

The ESP program recognizes that students themselves know best what safety issues are present in their schools; and with the assistance of their staff advisors and divisional police officers, students are empowered to plan, organize and execute year-long anti-violence initiatives in their local school and community.

The program was initiated by the Toronto Police Service in 33 Division in 1997. The strong program partnership between the Toronto Police Service, the Canadian Safe School Network, the City of Toronto, ProAction Cops & Kids, the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, le Conseil scolaire de district du Centre-Sud-Ouest, and le conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud has enabled the program to expand. The result was the October 2002 launch of the citywide ESP program as it exists today. Currently, there are over 100 high schools in Toronto that are registered in the program.

Success Through Partnerships

The school **Staff Advisors** lend their time, educational expertise, individual talents, and leadership skills to their school's program. Students rely on their interest, support and drive to make their individual programs a success.

Police officers provide program coordination, resources, and knowledge of safety issues and crime prevention required to implement the safety initiatives.

ProAction, Cops & Kids, is a founding partner and major donor to ESP. It is a registered charity that provides officers with the financial resources required to develop and operate programs targeting youth at-risk within our communities.

Bell Canada through its donations to ProAction has become and remains the program's primary sponsor. Bell Canada has also provided advice to the ESP Central Steering Committee.

The **Canadian Safe School Network**, a national, charitable organization dedicated to reducing youth violence and making schools and communities safer, participates by bringing expertise and resources to the ESP program.

The Government of Canada's **National Crime Prevention Strategy** also provides financial support to the ESP Program.





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Success Through Structure

The structure of the ESP program ensures that students' concerns, ideas, creativity, and initiatives are realized into viable and productive safety projects. Each involved school has its own committee who survey students and develop a plan of action with activities, programs and campaigns executed throughout the school year. The school ESP committee meets monthly, sharing concerns and ideas with the divisional ESP officers and other ESP schools in the local division. A Central Student Committee, made up of students from all across the city, meets monthly with the Program Coordinator. A Steering Committee, made up of students and representatives from each of the program partners, meets monthly to coordinate the operation of the program. An Executive Committee oversees the management of the entire program.

Success Through Leadership

ESP is a youth oriented initiative that gives students the ability to make their schools and communities safer thereby maximizing their learning potential and educational experience. It allows them to define the culture of their school and its reputation.

- The ESP Program gives students the opportunity to:
 - Gain important experience
 - Develop leadership skills
 - Demonstrate respect for themselves and for each other
 - Cultivate meaningful interaction and understanding
 - Create powerful productive partnerships

Getting Involved

The program KICKS OFF with an orientation session for both administration and students in September/October of each school year and culminates in the year-end Showcase in May when all involved schools are invited to come together and display their projects.

The goal is to have all Toronto high schools registered and fully participating in the ESP program.

Visit www.esponline.ca to view this exciting program in action and to see how you may become involved.

Empowered Student Partnerships
is generously supported by:

