## School violence is interrupting the education of our students.

# The State of Maryland is committed to school safety.

## Schools *can* and *must* be made even safer!

Summit convened by Congressman Elijah Cummings and State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick

#### **Summit on School Safety Solutions**

#### June 3, 2008 University of Maryland, Baltimore County

## **Invited Participants**

StudentsTeachersParentsSchool PrincipalsLocal AdministratorsFaith-Based LeadersElected OfficialsLaw Enforcement OfficersHigher Education RepresentativesLaw Enforcement OfficersNon-Profit Agency RepresentativesState and Local Government Agency Personnel

#### Summit Agenda

#### Participants:

- Listened to two keynote speakers and panelists
- Asked tough questions
- Shared viewpoints
- Proposed solutions to increase safety in Maryland public schools

#### Mr. Ivan Juzang, Founder and President MEE Productions, Inc.

- Develop strong relationships between adults and students
- Focus on prevention vs. punishment

- Learn about students' cultures and worldviews
- Help students learn alternatives to violence
- Engage student leaders in school safety efforts

#### Sam Goldstein, Ph.D., Psychologist University of Utah School of Medicine

Promote resilience, empathy and responsibility in youth

Identify youth early who are struggling to develop self-control and intervene

#### Sam Goldstein (Continued)

- Promote five broad goals for students:
- Competence
- Confidence
- Connectedness
- Character
- Caring and compassion

#### Panel Discussions Were Conducted

#### Breakout Groups Brainstormed Solutions

#### Staff Have Identified Frequently Suggested Solutions

#### Family and Community Involvement

- Develop strong relationships
- Identify safety as a priority
- Encourage parent and community involvement
- Allocate resources

## Students

- Give students a voice in the process
  - Survey students
  - Conduct student forums
  - Involve students impacted by violence
- Build relationships among educators and students
- Mobilize community organizations to mentor students

#### **Professional Development and Preservice Training**

Focus on:

- Developing relationships
- Culture and behavior
- Listening and communicating
- Engaging families

- Problem solving and conflict resolution
- Peer mediation
- Classroom management
- Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports

## Services

- Identify research-based programs and services that address students' needs
- Increase access to early interventions
- Provide a continuum of supports and services that match the level of students' needs
- Expand the PBIS continuum to include targeted and intensive interventions

• Promote alternative education and mental health services

## **Next Steps**

- 1. Create a School Safety Solutions Summit Report.
- 2. Hold statewide Student Summit on School Safety.
- 3. Standardize behavior expectations, definitions and discipline codes across the state.
- 4. Form action group to act on solutions.