



## Adopt-a-School Program

In support of the FBI's investigative mission, a comprehensive prevention program that deals with multiple interrelated societal problems, including crime, drugs, gangs, and violence has grown out of the FBI's Drug Demand Reduction Program (DDRP) which began in 1988, and its Community Outreach Program which began in 1990. The FBI's new Community Outreach efforts are a unification of DDRP and COP. One component of these efforts is a youth program initiative containing a menu of models. To carry the FBI's outreach efforts forward, employees serve as Coordinators in each of the FBI's 56 field divisions nationwide.

The role of FBI's COP Specialists/Coordinators in working with schools can include the following:

- Establish liaison with the school's representative
- Assist the school in implementing and/or enhancing a youth program
- Identify and recruit FBI employees to serve as mentors/tutors to targeted youth
- Help students to achieve academic and personal goals
- Provide mentor in-service training
- Address parent-teacher groups, assemblies, and student groups about drugs and alcohol
- Serve on school committees at the local or state levels
- Offer instruction and technical assistance
- Assist in community-wide public relations activities to promote the youth initiative program
- Promote program through liaison with the media
- Provide resource material for the program

### Mission:

To provide a comprehensive youth program that offers several models to all FBI divisions in which FBI volunteers can effectively help students raise their expectations and improve their school performance while being exposed to the positive role the FBI plays in their communities.

Goals: Improve students' school performance and attendance  
Encourage students to have a positive self-image  
Encourage students to maintain a crime, drug, gang, and violence-free lifestyle

This program was developed to assist socio-economically disadvantaged students improve academically and to help them develop into good citizens. It is suggested that each field division sponsor an elementary, middle, or high school within its territorial jurisdiction which is located in an impoverished, high-crime area. By implementing one of the many youth Adopt-A-School Program models, these students will be exposed to the FBI and the positive role we can play within the community.

The models range from periodic visits to a selected school where FBI volunteers spend time with students as mentors and tutors to the structured 10 to 16 week Junior Special Agent Program that gives students an inside look at today's FBI. All the models are based on FBI volunteers acting as mentors to at-risk students while stressing getting a good education, living healthy and drug-free, and abstaining from violent and/or criminal behavior. The models are flexible enough in structure to not only allow for the differences in the school systems throughout the country, but also to allow the field divisions to choose an acceptable model that will fit within the confines of their available resources.

The FBI volunteer mentors assist students to achieve academic and personal goals. They provide caring support; positive, enriching interactions; and positive feedback and appreciation for the students' improved performance or behavior. The mentors respect the students and their families and preserve the confidentiality of all information learned about them.

#### School Responsibilities:

- Provide a lead school personnel representative to work with the FBI COP Coordinator on program activities
- Select appropriate students to participate in a program based on criteria decided by the school and the FBI COP Coordinator
- Provide transportation for students and tickets for cultural trips
- Handle/solve student problems
- Assist in developing evaluation techniques