

Recommended Strategies from ACHS Students to Create Safer School Environments

Improve the quality, support, training, and accountability of school security staff

Students recommended clear supervision and chains of command, regular training and briefings, adequate staffing and compensation, opportunities for staff to gain experience across campuses, and structures through which security personnel can communicate concerns and work toward shared safety goals. They emphasized improving relationships and reducing hostility so both students and security staff feel respected and heard

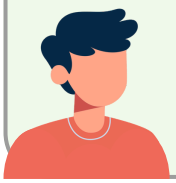
Sources: Rilo Farmer, *ACHS Security Guards*, 2026; Cheik Bamba, *School Safety & Security*, 2026; Glenn Hernandez, *School Safety & Security at ACHS* 2026; Almaz Yohannes, Emily Lemus, and Layla Benitez, *Safety & Security in Schools & Communities*, 2025; Zeanise and Kristy, *Violence in Schools*, 2026; and Melendez Martinez, *School and Security* 2026.

Prevent fights and conflict before they escalate

Students recommended peer mediation, conflict-resolution education, peer-support programs, safety ambassadors, guidance from trusted adults, and opportunities for students to get help managing anger, stress, and disagreements. They also called for clearer and faster responses when fights or bullying occur and more ways for students to help create a peaceful school environment

Sources: Storks, *School Safety & Security in ACPS*, 2025; Maryamawit A., *Mental Health & Emotional Wellness*, 2026; Hernandez, 2026; Garcia, *School Safety & Security*, 2026; Hammoude, *School Safety and Security/Bullying*, 2026; Jones, *Youth Mental Health and School Safety*, 2026; Dundon and Cannon, *Student Safety and Security At ACHS,* 2026; and Ema Patricia Caballero Membreno, *School Safety & Security*, 2026.

> ***"All ACHS security guards should be required to complete comprehensive training on de-escalation techniques, respectful communication with students, strict phone-use policies, and emergency preparedness."***
>
> *~ Rilo Farmer, 2026*



> ***"Implement a Comprehensive School Safety Enhancement Plan focused on better training and accountability for security guards (students' top request)."***
>
> *~ Glenn Hernandez, 2026*



> ***"The school board and administrators would work together to create a clear chain of command, provide regular training, and allow guards to rotate between campuses for new experiences and perspectives.A task force...would also...help security staff communicate concerns."***
>
> *~ Zeanise and Kristy, 2026*



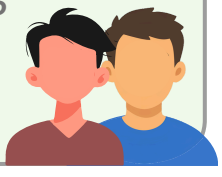
> ***"Create an anonymous peer mediation program at ACHS where students can confidentially request help when dealing with anger, conflict, or emotional stress. Trained peer mediators would meet with struggling students and connect them to school counselors for proper support."***
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> *~ Maryamawit A., 2026*

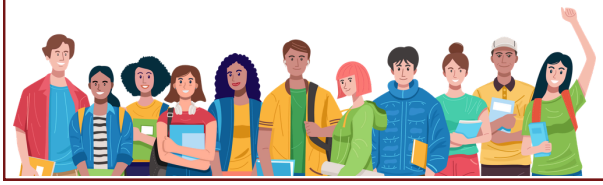


> ***"Schools could hold more assemblies & lessons about respect, mental health, & conflict resolution."***
>
> *~ Hammoude, 2026*



> ***"...have social workers go to...communities in Alexandria where statistics of fighting in school is higher to advocate for safe places where students can go to relieve their personal struggles and anger.***
>
> *~ Dundon & Cannon, 2026*





Recommended Strategies from ACHS Students to Create Safer School Environments

Increase adult presence in the places and times where students feel least safe

Students called for better supervision in hallways, bathrooms, cafeterias, libraries, entrances, after-school activities, and other high-risk locations and transition times. They recommended positioning trained security staff, teachers, and trusted adults where fights, bullying, and other unsafe behavior are most likely to occur.

Sources: Cheik Bamba, *School Safety & Security,* 2026; Glenn Hernandez, *School Safety & Security at ACHS* 2026; Garcia, *School Safety & Security*, 2026; Hammoude, *School Safety and Security/Bullying*, 2026; Brandyn Aguilera-Cruz, *School Safety & Security,* 2026; and Storks, *School Safety & Security in ACPS,* 2025.

Strengthen security infrastructure and emergency preparedness

Students recommended additional cameras, secure and controlled entrances, stronger weapons-prevention measures, well-planned safety drills, clearer emergency-response protocols, and effective communication during emergencies. Students also recommended regular safety audits with student involvement and called for schools to continually improve security measures that students believe are not working effectively.

Sources: Storks, 2025; Yohannes, Lemus, and Benitez, *Safety & Security in Schools & Communities*, 2025; Bamba, 2026; Hernandez 2026; Fatima Mishaal, *Student Safety*, 2025; Farmer, *ACHS Security Guards*, 2026; and *School Safety*, hamiditabasum, 2025.

"Based on my survey data, school security and supervision should be improved throughout the school building. More experienced and attentive security staff should be hired to better monitor entrances, hallways, bathrooms, and after-school activities."

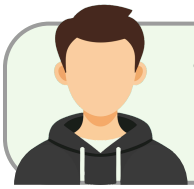
~ Bamba, 2026



"Preventative measures like better-trained security, locked doors, and properly timed drills must be prioritized to ensure students and staff can respond effectively to emergencies. Technology can also play a critical role - multi-platform alerts... help keep students informed and campuses secure."

~ Almaz Yohannes, Emily Lemus & Layla Benitez, 2025





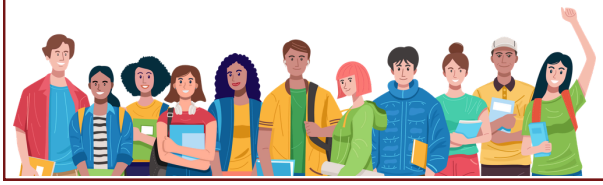
"Conduct annual safety audits with student involvement."

~ Storks, 2025

"While these steps show the district is responding to the problem, student feedback from the recent survey indicates the changes have only been partially effective. Many students still report frequent fighting and feel that security staff need better training and more consistent presence."

~ Hernandez 2026





Recommended Strategies from ACHS Students to Create Safer School Environments

Strengthen bullying and cyberbullying prevention through education, intervention, and support

Students recommended teaching empathy and inclusion, helping students understand the effects of their behavior, responding promptly and consistently when bullying occurs, and avoiding responses that publicly humiliate students or worsen the situation. They also called for trained teachers and social workers whom students can trust to help them talk through bullying and find a solution.

Sources: Jonatan Perez, *Cyber Bullying in Social Media*, 2026; Edder Acosta Perez, *How to Stop Bullying at ACHS*, 2026; Hammoude, *School Safety and Security/Bullying*, 2026; Mishaal, *Student Safety*, 2025; Isis Jones, *Youth Mental Health and School Safety*, 2026; and Storks, *School Safety & Security in ACPS,* 2025.



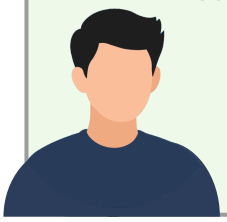
"Another way we can stop bullying is by teaching students what bullying does to students."

~ Edder Acosta Perez, 2026

"Hiring more trained teachers, and social workers can help victims of bullying speak with someone and discuss a solution to the issue."

~ Isis Jones, 2026





"Another solution could be creating student-led groups or clubs focused on kindness, digital responsibility, and mental health awareness."

~ Jonatan Perez, 2026

Make it easier and safer to report bullying, cyberbullying, and other safety concerns

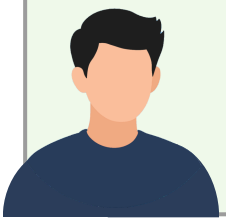
Students proposed anonymous online forms, QR-code reporting tools, private ways to report concerns, better promotion of existing systems, and clear follow-up so students know their reports were received and taken seriously. They emphasized that fear of retaliation, embarrassment, lack of trust, confusion about the process, or believing that nothing will change often prevents students from speaking up.

Sources: Nahom Mengiste, *Bullying at ACHS*, 2026; Perez, 2026; Storks, 2025; and Hammoude, 2026.

"Students said they stay quiet because of fear, lack of trust, and embarrassment...Our solution is to create a stronger anonymous bullying reporting system at ACHS."

~ Nahom Mengiste, 2026





"Students should have anonymous ways to report bullying online and should feel comfortable talking to counselors, teachers, or trusted adults without fear of embarrassment or retaliation.

~ Jonatan Perez, 2026