



Center for Neighborhood Enterprise



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Violence, Suspensions Cut in Half at Baltimore VFZ School

A Baltimore high school where the Center for Neighborhood Enterprise's Violence-Free Zone program was introduced just last fall reports significant reductions in violence and improvements in attendance for the first two quarters compared with the same period last year. The results follow the pattern of other Violence-Free Zone sites around the country.

CNE's community partner, New Visions Youth Services, introduced the program at Forest Park High School in September, 2009. Initial data received from the Baltimore Public Schools (BPS) indicates positive progress in reducing incidents, fights, suspensions, and expulsions at the school for the period from September – February of this school year compared to the pre-VFZ period of September - February of 2008-2009 in Forest Park.

Baltimore VFZ Results*

Measure	Pre-VFZ (08/09)	Post-VFZ (09/10)	Change
Total Incidents	125	56	Down 55%
Fighting and Attacks	64	29	Down 55%
Suspensions	104	48	Down 54%
Expulsions	20	6	Down 70%

**Baltimore Public Schools Research Department*

Founded by Executive Director Billy Stanfield, New Vision Youth Services' mission is to change the cultural environment of at-risk youth in an effort to eliminate violent and destructive behavior in the city. The program targets high-risk children and youth and offers character development activities to help them establish appropriate values, beliefs, and character. New Vision previously implemented the VFZ program in Baltimore's Southwestern High School with similar success. In addition to Forest Park High School, NVYS currently operates the program in Frederick Douglass High School and schools on the Dukeland Street Complex, which includes Diploma Plus, ConneXions Community Leadership Academy, and Institute of Business and Entrepreneurship High Schools. (5/7/2010)