

What G.R.E.A.T. Can Do in Your Community

What are we in law enforcement doing to prevent youth gangs and violence in our schools and communities? Law enforcement officers who teach the Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program believe they are having an impact on our youth. The G.R.E.A.T. Program is a school based, life-skills competency program that is taught by uniformed police officers. The G.R.E.A.T. Program is designed to enable youth to develop positive attitudes toward police officers, avoid conflicts, be responsible, set positive goals, and resist peer pressure.

Developing positive life-skills empowers our youth to make good decisions and develop pro-social behavior. One of the biggest problems facing our youth today is violence, which is finding its way into our schools and neighborhoods. Our communities are seeking solutions to stopping the violence that has seized our youth. In an effort to make our schools and communities free from gangs and violence, we must provide our youth with life-skills. These life-skills empower young people to avoid violent behavior. The Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program is one such program, which teaches life-skills to young people.

G.R.E.A.T. is taught in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, as well as on military bases worldwide by uniformed police officers. The program contains curricula for the 3rd/4th; and G.R.E.A.T.'s core curriculum for 6/7th grades. The curriculum is also taught in after school and summer programs at schools and recreation centers. G.R.E.A.T. has developed national partnerships with the Boys and Girls Clubs of America and the Police Athletic League (PAL).

G.R.E.A.T.'s goal is to reach all children, in all communities. Teaching our youth the basic life skills will result in non-violent behavior. By teaching our youth today, we will see the results tomorrow.

In order to ensure student involvement, G.R.E.A.T. is presently making a transition in the curriculum from lecture base to interactive lessons. These interactive lessons involve more input from the students and the officers. The enhanced G.R.E.A.T. curriculum will consist of 13 lessons.