

G.R.E.A.T. NEWS

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SOUTHWEST REGION



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What's New on the G.R.E.A.T. Web Site?

The screenshot shows the G.R.E.A.T. website interface. On the left is a circular logo for the 20th Anniversary (1991-2011) with the text 'Gang Resistance Education And Training' and 'Chosen to Be GREAT'. Below the logo is the text 'Prevent Youth Crime, Violence, and Gang Involvement'. To the right is a search bar with a 'SEARCH' button. Below the search bar is the BJA logo (Bureau of Justice Assistance, U.S. Department of Justice) and navigation links: 'Home | Contact | Site Index | FAQ'. At the bottom of the screenshot is a row of six thumbnail images with labels: 'ORGANIZATION', 'TRAINING INFORMATION', 'INSTRUCTOR RESOURCES', 'G.R.E.A.T. NEWS', 'COMPONENTS', and 'HELPFUL LINKS'.

The G.R.E.A.T. Program works to continually improve the quality of training and information provided to G.R.E.A.T. instructors. One of the easiest ways for the National Program Office to disseminate new materials is by posting them on the G.R.E.A.T. Web site, www.great-online.org. This article outlines several recent updates.

The Topic of Bullying

A frequently asked question is “Does G.R.E.A.T. address bullying in the curricula?” The answer is an emphatic “Yes!” For a more thorough explanation of how each of the four components directly or indirectly addresses the issue of bullying, click on the “Components” icon at the top of the Web site.



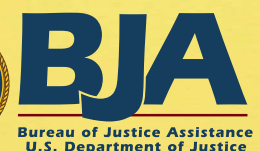
Effectiveness of the G.R.E.A.T. Program

Our Program is only as credible as the research that supports it. The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) page answers the question, “Has G.R.E.A.T. been proven effective?” An excerpt from the preliminary results of the longitudinal study, conducted by the University of Missouri at St. Louis, is featured on the FAQ page. A link to both the ongoing G.R.E.A.T. evaluation and an evaluation conducted in the early 2000s is also provided. Find the FAQ section of the Web site by clicking the FAQ link in the top right-hand corner, underneath the BJA logo.

GREATINFO E-Mail List Service

GREATINFO is an e-mail list service through which members can exchange information and hold discussions about topics related to the G.R.E.A.T. Program.

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What's New on our Web Site?

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Members have the opportunity to share ideas and concerns, ask questions, and discuss topics and research that are relevant to the G.R.E.A.T. Program. GREATINFO membership is open to G.R.E.A.T. instructors, researchers, teachers, school administrators and educators, school resource officers, and other criminal justice professionals.

Sign up to become a member of this list service by clicking the link on the yellow sidebar. Simply complete and submit the online registration form.

New Materials for G.R.E.A.T. Instructors

All of the updates described above are available to the general public. However, the National Program Office did not forget to add a few new items to make teaching G.R.E.A.T. even easier for instructors!

- *Checklist: Considerations in Preparing to Teach G.R.E.A.T.*—Preparation is key to teaching G.R.E.A.T. classes. This checklist is an additional tool for both new and veteran instructors.
- *Summer Component Materials*—New in January 2011, these materials provide G.R.E.A.T. instructors with the templates and information necessary for starting a G.R.E.A.T. Summer Program in their communities.
- *How to Make Classroom Slideshows Work Like PowerPoint*—This article provides instructions on how to use the classroom slideshows and offers guidance to enhance the classroom experience.
- *G.R.E.A.T. Overview Presentations for G.R.E.A.T. Instructors*—If you are scheduled to give a G.R.E.A.T. presentation to inform others about the Program, you are in luck. The Web site now has standard presentations that you can use in your community. Presentations are geared toward either educators/parents or law enforcement personnel. In addition,

there is a long and short version of each, depending on the length of time the instructor has for the presentation. All four presentations come with instructor notes highlighting basic G.R.E.A.T. facts that will help the presenter elaborate on the important details of the Program.

Access these materials and many more by clicking on the “Instructor Resource” icon at the top of the Web page and logging into your G.R.E.A.T. instructor account.

Don't See Something You Need?

Ask us! The G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office is always open to suggestions for improvements that will make your experience with the Program G.R.E.A.T.! Contact us through the link located in the top right-hand corner, underneath the BJA logo. You can also e-mail us at information@great-online.org.

G.R.E.A.T. Regional Assistance

As the representatives for the G.R.E.A.T. Program's Southwest Regional Training Center, Officer Jamie Brooks and I have had the opportunity to visit and talk with many of the G.R.E.A.T. agencies within the southwest region. We admire the efforts you are taking to create a sustainable G.R.E.A.T. Program within your respective communities. We also realize that due to current fiscal constraints in many jurisdictions across the United States, being able to afford to purchase some basic teaching supplies for the students can be difficult.

Our SW Regional office has secured some G.R.E.A.T. branded pencils, name tents, pens, and other small G.R.E.A.T.-branded items that we can ship to your agency to help you continue to deliver the G.R.E.A.T. lessons through these exceptionally lean fiscal times. Please contact us at www.swgreat.org for details on how to order these supplies.

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CHOOSE TO BE G.R.E.A.T.

Bullying Becomes a National Issue

(Written by: Linda Hammond-Deckard, Policy Advisor, BJA, and member of the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools Federal Interagency Working Group)

With more than one-third of all middle school and high school students reporting that they have been bullied during the previous school year; more than 3 million students reporting being pushed, shoved, tripped, or even spit on; and another 56 percent of students personally witnessing some type of bullying in school, what was once thought to be “just a rite of growing up” has now gained the attention of our nation’s leaders. In August 2010, the U.S. Department of Education and several other federal agencies convened the first-ever federally sponsored conference on bullying, and on March 10, 2011, President and Mrs. Obama hosted the first White House Conference on Bullying Prevention. Even the President acknowledged having been bullied when he was in school. In the introduction section of its recently released “Measuring Bullying Victimization, Perpetration, and Bystander Experiences: A Compendium of Assessment Tools,” the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, describes bullying as a **“major public health problem.”**

Although bullying has been viewed as “an inevitable part of growing up” for many years, with advances in technology, bullying no longer stops when the school day ends. Bullying often follows children from the hallways at school to their cell phones and computer screens. Incidents of bullying are no longer witnessed by just a handful of students at the bus stop, but in many instances, taunts, insults, and ridicule are posted on social networking sites for the entire world to see and join the bullying. Bullying most often leads to absences and poor performance in the classroom. The National



Education Association estimates that as many as 160,000 children stay out of school on any given day as a result of being bullied or fear of being bullied. Over the last year, a series of tragedies has drawn attention to just how devastating bullying really can be when young people who could no longer live with being victims of bullying chose to end their own lives.

Arne Duncan, Secretary of Education and a proponent of the G.R.E.A.T. Program when he served as Superintendent for the Chicago City Schools, has committed to helping states and school districts design and implement effective policies to prevent bullying, protect victims of bullying, and hold those who bully accountable for their actions. Massachusetts, Florida, and North Carolina are leading the effort with specialized training for teachers and other school staff and have clearly identified conduct and actions that constitute bullying. The U.S. Department of Education has established a technical assistance center dedicated to bullying prevention and has model guidelines and policies that are available for distribution.

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Bullying Becomes a National Issue

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Both President Obama and Secretary Duncan have made it clear that bullying is a moral and educational issue and that it will take the collective efforts of educators, policymakers, community leaders, parents, law enforcement, and even other youth working together to stop bullying and ensure that all children have a safe and supportive environment in which they can maximize their learning experience. As G.R.E.A.T. instructors, you are already actively engaged in reducing bullying when you teach the G.R.E.A.T. lessons in your schools. Is there more that you can or should do if you are aware of specific incidents of bullying among the students in your G.R.E.A.T. classes or in the schools where you teach the G.R.E.A.T. curricula? Below are some suggestions for steps that you can take to help address bullying:



- Alert the classroom teacher or school administrators to the problem.
- Encourage school administrators to assess bullying at the school.
- Offer to help coordinate a school safety committee that includes teachers, support staff, students, parents, and community members.
- Go beyond the G.R.E.A.T. lessons and engage students in discussions (during lunch, study hall, or after school) that encourage them to safely stand up for each other and report bullying when they witness it.

Also highlight the different types of bullying and provide students with examples of what they can do to help stop bullying.

- Become a mentor to the bully or the student who is the victim of the bullying.
- Assist school administrators and teachers in establishing a method for tracking incidents of bullying.
- Make yourself aware of the various resources that are available to help you, the student, his or her parents, and the school address the problem.

Partnerships to End Bullying

Both MTV and Facebook have partnered with the U.S. Department of Education to work toward ending bullying. **MTV** is planning six new cyber bullying and digital discrimination public service announcements to encourage bullying bystanders to support their friends, to connect victims of digital abuse to resources, and to make clear the serious impact written words can have. In addition, MTV will air a poignant new feature film inspired by the true, tragic tale of a young man who committed suicide in response to digital bullying.



Facebook will unveil two new safety features in the coming weeks: a revamped multimedia Safety Center to incorporate multimedia, external resources from renowned experts, and

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downloadable information for teens. Additionally, Facebook will create a new “Social Reporting” system that will enable users to report content that violates Facebook policies in order for it to be removed as soon as possible, while at the same time notifying parents or teachers of the content so that the reasons for the posting can be addressed.

Online Resources to Address Bullying

<http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.html>

<http://www.olweus.org/public/bullying.page>

http://www.police.govt.nz/service/yes/nobully/bully_info.html

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/bullying.html>

<http://www.ncpc.org/topics/bullying>

http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pub/measuring_bullying.html

If you have encountered a specific bullying issue and are looking for assistance to resolve the issue or have found a creative way to address bullying in your school or community, please let us know. Your thoughts, ideas, and accounts can be sent, via e-mail, to your Regional Training Center, where they will be reviewed by staff who will work with the G.R.E.A.T. federal partners to provide assistance or share your solutions with other agencies and G.R.E.A.T. officers.

(Note: Some content of this article has been extracted from presentations made at the recent White House Conference on Bullying Prevention.)

REVISED G.R.E.A.T. INSTRUCTORS' CURRICULA

This summer, all active G.R.E.A.T. instructors who have accurate e-mail addresses will receive notification of the updated curricula. We made revisions to several middle school and elementary school lessons, classroom slideshows, and student handbooks. Many of these revisions were in response to requests from G.R.E.A.T. instructors. Your input is much appreciated!

With every revision, a Change Memorandum is issued. It is critical that instructors review this document. It outlines each revision and, if needed, provides a rationale for the change.

The G.R.E.A.T. curricula are available to instructors through their account on the Instructor Resources page of the G.R.E.A.T. Web site. The G.R.E.A.T. Program only provides print copies of the curricula to officers when they complete their initial certification training. Once the training is completed, each certified instructor is responsible for staying up to date with revisions by downloading copies from the Web site.

The G.R.E.A.T. National Program Office notifies all active instructors of curricula and other changes to the G.R.E.A.T. Program through newsletters, the Web site, and mass e-mails. Please ensure the information in your instructor account is up to date. If you have any questions regarding the curricula, please contact the National Program Office at (800) 726-7070 or information@great-online.org.



Belize, Central America

Police Department Introduces Program in Three City Schools January 18, 2011

Source—LOVE FM, Belize City (<http://www.lovefm.com/ndisplay.php?nid=13248>)

The Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) Program was initiated today at the Queen Square Anglican Primary School in Belize City, Belize, Central America. The Program has proven successful over the years and engages young students in classroom instructions and various learning activities. Elroy Carcamo, the Corporal of Police with the community-policing detachment in Belmopan, Belize, gave us some insight on the initiative.

Corporal Elroy Carcamo, Community Policing—

“The Belize Police Department has a program that has been out since 1991 called the Police Crime Prevention Education Program where the police officers go into the schools and educate the students about different laws and crime happening within the country. In 2009, eight police officers went to El Salvador to train with the G.R.E.A.T. Program, which is a life skill-based program with different activities. From then until now, we have just gotten the go-ahead, and we are working to teach this Program within different schools in Belize City as a pilot program.”

Maria Novelo, Reporter— Why is it important to sensitize the youths about crime prevention and crime?

Corporal Elroy Carcamo, Community Policing— “If you notice the trend of crime that is going on right now, mostly it involves younger people, and we need to start with the younger person to educate them about the different laws and life skills. The G.R.E.A.T. Program teaches the students different life skills, such as how to have empathy for people, how to make decisions, how to deal with conflicts, and so forth. It is a 13-session program which will be done once per week in Queen Square Anglican School. We are also introducing the

Program in Trinity Methodist School and St. John Vianney. From the original eight officers we had in the training, we only have five right now. So, we have to see how we stretch ourselves across, and hopefully after these 13 lessons are done, then we can send out more officers for training.”

Corporal Carcamo says that one of the objectives of the Program is to steer the youths on a crime-free path. The Program will be piloted in three schools, and its results evaluated and expanded to other schools.

Corporal Elroy Carcamo, Community Policing—

“On our records, which we have at the Police Station, we have dealt mostly with these schools with incidents, although nothing major. One of the objectives of the Program is to try to steer the youths into a different path, into the path of being crime-free. We are starting with these schools, and then we will expand. Starting now, the sessions will be completed in April, a little before Easter. I want to encourage the parents out there to work along with us, to work along with their youths, and work along with the teachers. The materials we handed out at the schools are the lesson books because each lesson has the different activities which the student must do. The activities are not based on the police going in there and doing lecturing. The activities are based on facilitation, meaning that the police will do their part, the students will do their part, and the teachers will do their part.”

Students will be evaluated over the course of the Program, and those who perform well will be recognized. The G.R.E.A.T. Program produces attitude and behavioral changes through a unique combination of skills training, cooperative learning, discussion, and role playing.

CHOOSE TO BE G.R.E.A.T.

UPCOMING TRAININGS IN THE SOUTHWEST REGION:

G.R.E.A.T. Officer Training (GOT) (60-hour course)

GOT2-1118 will be held July 11-20, 2011 in St. Louis, Missouri. The training will be held at the Maryville University located at 650 Maryville University Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141. Complimentary double-occupancy lodging is offered for participants commuting more than 50 miles to the training site location.

GOT2-1109 will be held August 1-10, 2011 in Austin, Texas. This training will be held at the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 3401 South IH-35, Austin, Texas 78741. It is anticipated that the majority of officers attending this training will be commuting from within the Austin area; therefore we do not anticipate offering complimentary lodging. Please also consider registering for the G.R.E.A.T. Families Training immediately following the GOT.

GOT2-1114 will be held November 28 – December 7, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona. Complimentary double-occupancy lodging is offered for participants commuting more than 50 miles to the training site location.

G.R.E.A.T. Officer In-Service (GOI)

GOI-1105 will be held on August 15-18, 2011 in Las Vegas, Nevada. Registration details can be found online at: <http://www.great-online.org/FAQ/GREATOfficerInservice.aspx>

G.R.E.A.T. Families Training (GFT)

GFT-1105 will be held August 4-5, 2011 in Phoenix, Arizona in conjunction with the School Safety Advocacy Council's annual conference.

GFT-1101 will be held August 10-12, 2011 in Austin, Texas immediately following the GOT at the Wyndham Garden Hotel located at 3401 South IH-35, Austin, Texas 78741.

Details and application forms for all G.R.E.A.T. training opportunities are available on the G.R.E.A.T. web page at www.great-online.org/Program/TrainingSchedules.Asp

COMPLETED TRAININGS



GOT2-1102 – Albuquerque, New Mexico

From February 28 – March 9, 2011, the SWRTC conducted GOT2-1102; in Albuquerque, NM. Twenty-one officers from six local and federal law enforcement agencies completed the course and certification requirements.

We want to thank the Albuquerque Police Department, Grace Baptist Church, our National Training Team and Seminar Supervisor who contributed to this successful training and welcome the 21 newest G.R.E.A.T. Officers:

Arthur Acosta, Edward Blea, Robert Bowman, Colleen Bultmann, Pete DeQuack, Manny Garcia, David Guzman, Jimmy Hernandez, Ray Jaramillo, Janette Kimberlin, Duffy Ryan, Kenneth Salazar, and Ramond Zamora from Albuquerque Police Department; Rodger Kane from Sandoval County Sheriff's Office; Patrick Keahbone from Bureau of Indian Affairs – Anadarko; Quincy Panteah from Zuni Police Department; Laura Sanchez and Deborah Garcia-Sandoval from Denver Juvenile Probation; Luis Silva and Hector Velasco from Socorro ISD Police; and Jonathan Cardinale from Reedley Police Department.

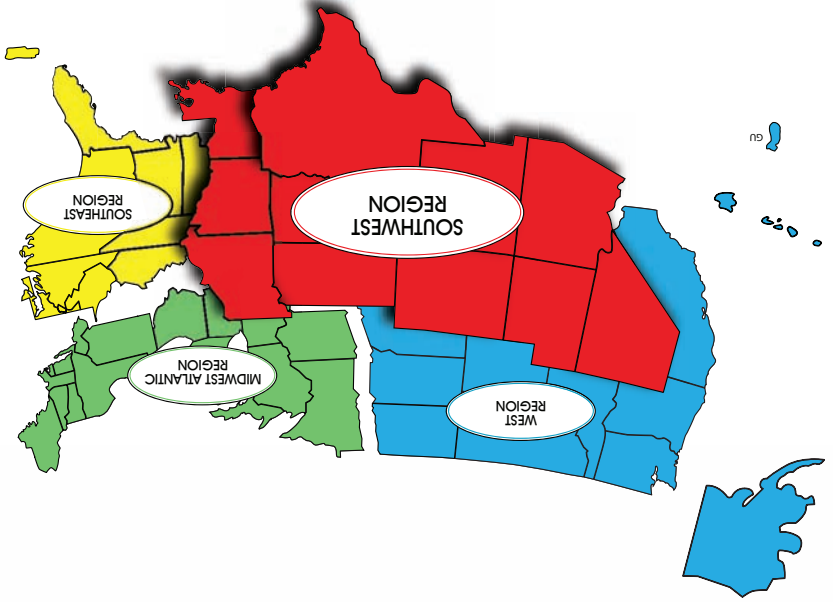


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