



## Terms and Definitions

The purpose of Az SAFE is to provide the information educators need to maintain and improve the safety of their schools. Az SAFE provides a standardized system for accurately tracking, managing and reporting school safety and disciplinary incident data.

### Definitions

Incident: An event that occurs on school grounds or at a school-sponsored event that disrupts the orderly functioning of a school or classroom. Incidents range from minor problem behaviors to criminal acts and typically result in referral for disciplinary assessment. An incident is described by the violation(s) that occurred, the people involved, and the date, time, and location of occurrence.

Violation: A violation is a crime or infringement of a law, policy, right, or expectation. Please see Az SAFE Definitions of Violations Matrix.

People: People who may be involved in an incident include an offender, victims, witnesses, and bystanders. These people may be students attending the school, students attending other schools, school staff, vendors, visitors, or others.

Offender: An individual that commits a violation. An offender can be a student or non-student and may or may not have a relationship with the school.

An incident can be further described as bias/hate or gang related, and whether there were physical injuries.

Bias/Hate Related Incidents: An incident is considered bias/hate related when one could reasonably conclude that it was motivated, in whole or in part, by the perpetrator's bias or attitude against an individual victim or group based on perceived or actual personal characteristics. Such characteristics include age, ancestry or ethnicity, disability, economic status, gender, height or weight, immigration or citizenship status, marital status, race, religion or religious practices, or sexual orientation (Hartwick College, Campus Life, Student Life, Office of Campus Safety).

Gang: A gang can be described as a group of persons, usually youths, who share a common identity and who often engage in criminal behavior. In contrast to the criminal behavior of other youths, the activities of gangs are characterized by some level of organization and continuity over time. There is no consensus on the exact definition of a gang, however, and scholars have debated whether the definition should expressly include involvement in crime. Some gangs, but not all, have strong leadership, formalized rules, and extensive use of common identifying symbols. Many gangs associate themselves with a particular geographic area or type of crime, and some use graffiti as a form of nonverbal communication (Britannica Online Encyclopedia).

Gang Related Incident: An incident is considered gang related when an incident occurs where the participants, suspects or victims, are identified as gang members or affiliates.

Physical Injury: Incidents with injury include those in which one or more students, school personnel, or other persons on school grounds require professional medical attention. Examples include stab or bullet wounds, concussions, fractured or broken bones, or cuts requiring stitches. USED Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN)

Serious Bodily (physical) Injury: A bodily (physical) injury that involves a substantial risk of death; extreme physical pain; protracted and obvious disfigurement; or protracted loss or impairment of the function of a bodily member, organ or faculty (18 U.S.C. Section 1365(3)(h)).