



### **ABOUT WATCH D.O.G.S.**

WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is the safe schools initiative of the National Center for Fathering that involves fathers and father figures in schools to serve as an unobtrusive, natural security presence and as positive male role models for children at school.

To date, WATCH D.O.G.S has been initiated in more than 1,150 schools in 36 states. This school year, more than 70,000 dads will serve at least one day as a WatchDOG.

### **WHO ARE WatchDOGS?**

Fathers (grandfathers, uncles, and other male adults) who volunteer at their child's school for one (or more) days each year to assist in a variety of school activities, as assigned by the principal or school coordinator.

Activities include:

- Monitoring the school entrance
- Unloading and loading buses
- Reading to classes
- Doing flash cards
- Playing at recess
- Eating lunch with students
- Any additional activities assigned

### **RECRUITING**

Fathers, father figures, and students are invited to attend a pizza night at their school. The pizza night program consists of a 10-minute motivational message (delivered by a WATCH D.O.G.S representative or via video), challenging fathers and father figures to become more involved in their child's education. Following the message, fathers and father figures are encouraged to "line-up and sign up" to volunteer at their child's school for a day.

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At the beginning of their volunteer day, WatchDOGS are required to meet with the principal or school liaison. WatchDOGS are given a brief review of the program, school policy and procedures, and are assigned their duties for the day. All WatchDOGS are required to wear a logo nametag and/or logo shirt that identifies them as a WatchDOG.

## **RESULTS**

A survey of 50 principals and/or school coordinators revealed the following:

- 79 % believe that WATCH D.O.G.S made a significant contribution to school safety.
- 89% agree/strongly agree that WATCH D.O.G.S is a valuable component of the schools effort to promote a safe and positive learning environment.
- 79% believe that since implementing WATCH D.O.G.S, father involvement in the school has increased in areas outside of WATCH D.O.G.S including parent teacher conferences, volunteering, and PTA/PTO.
- 52% agree/strongly agree that WATCH D.O.G.S contributed to a decrease in students' behavioral problems.
- 50 % believe that WATCH D.O.G.S contributed to an increase in student achievement.

## **RECOGNITION**

WATCH D.O.G.S has been recognized by:

- The White House Summit on School Safety
- The U.S. Department of Education's P.F.I.E. (Partnership for Family Involvement in Education)
- The National PTA

Find out more about WATCH D.O.G.S. at [www.fathers.com/watchdogs](http://www.fathers.com/watchdogs)