



SUPPORT CHILDREN & YOUTH IN LOUISIANA BY:

## **TAKING ACTION TO PREVENT YOUTH AGGRESSION**

Aggression in youth is a current issue in Southwest Louisiana high schools in physical, verbal, mental, and emotional forms. When teenagers begin to assert their independence and find their identity, many experience aggression that can seem bizarre and unpredictable. We must promote educational programs and activities that aim at teaching youth how to deal with their emotions in a positive manner.

### THE CURRENT PICTURE...

- The Center for Disease Control states that 28% of children show little or no aggression and 58% of children demonstrated a rising trajectory of modest assault.
- According to a survey taken by Louisiana Public Health Institute, 4% of Louisiana students reported that they carried a weapon to school on one or more occasions and that 7% of Louisiana students did not go to school due to feeling unsafe at school or on their way to or from school.
- The National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center states that between 30 and 40 percent of males and 16 to 30 percent of females committed a serious act of violence out of aggression.
- According to the National Institute of Health, 14% of Louisiana students reported being physically harmed by their boyfriend or girlfriend and 8.1% of physical fights and injuries happened on school property.

### AS YOUNG PEOPLE OUR HUMBLE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE...

- To promote and encourage schools to conduct “Awareness and Prevention” seminars.
- Support local organizations in providing educational programs for youth to better understand the prevention methods, managing techniques, and outcomes of aggression.
- To help prevent further aggression in youth, harsher punishments should be enforced to deter such behaviors.
- Implementing programs to teach adults in schools to properly deal with students’ aggression as well as having consequences for teachers who act aggressively towards students will be a much needed improvement.
- Promote anti-aggression programs and activities.