



General Fact Sheet

ABOUT WatchD.O.G.S.:

WatchD.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) is a safe school initiative of the National Center for Fathering that involves fathers and father figures to (1) serve as an unobtrusive security presence and (2) act as positive male role-models for children at school.

Founded in 1998, WatchD.O.G.S. is a unique program that involves fathers in the lives of children and schools. WatchD.O.G.S. has been initiated in over 768 schools in 38 states.

WHO ARE WatchD.O.G.S.:

Fathers (grandfathers, uncles, and other male adults) are volunteers 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 liaison. Activities include:

- Monitoring the school entrance
- Helping with after school exiting procedures
- Reading to classes
- Doing flash cards
- Playing at recess
- Eating lunch with students
- Any additional activities assigned

At the beginning of their volunteer day, WatchD.O.G.S. are required to meet with the principal or school liaison. WatchD.O.G.S. are given a brief review of the program, school policy and procedures and are assigned their duties for the day. All WatchD.O.G.S. are required to wear a nametag and vest that identifies them as a WatchD.O.G.S.

RESULTS OF THIS PROGRAM:

An impact survey based on responses from 50 principals and/or school liaisons revealed the following:

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

RECOGNITION:

WatchD.O.G.S. have been recognized by:

- The U.S. Department of Education's P.F.I.E. (Partnership for Family Involvement in Education.)
- The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.
- Participating dads, teachers, school principals, and state education officials.

Curtsinger's WatchD.O.G.S. Team:

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