

Schools and Delinquency

Schools and Delinquency provides a comprehensive review of the current research about the causes of delinquency, substance abuse, dropout and truancy, and the role of the school in preventing delinquent behavior patterns. Examining school-based prevention programs and practices for grades kindergarten through 12, Denise Gottfredson identifies a broad array of effective strategies geared toward improving the school environment as well as some that specifically target youths at risk for developing problem behaviors. She also explains why several popular school-based prevention strategies are ineffective and should be abandoned. Gottfredson analyzes, within the larger context of the community, the special challenges to effective programming that arise in disorganized settings, identifying ways to overcome these obstacles and make the most troubled schools safer and more productive environments.

In the wake of highly publicized incidents of violence in American schools, this book offers a timely focus on school safety. It transcends the boundaries of psychology, sociology, and criminology to develop a broad understanding of the causes and prevention of delinquency in schools, from the earliest school ages through the teen years. In addition to scholars and researchers (in criminology, sociology, and psychology), educators, education policy makers and analysts, and social workers will find this invaluable reading. Gottfredson challenges many of our assumptions about the role of schools in fostering and preventing problem behavior.

Denise C. Gottfredson is Professor of Criminology at the University of Maryland and Vice President of Gottfredson Associates, Inc. She is coauthor of *Closing Institutions for Juvenile Offenders: The Maryland Experience* (1997) and *Victimization in Schools* (1985). Her articles have appeared in *American Sociological Review*, *Criminology*, *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, and *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology* and other such publications.

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To Gary, for your inspiration and support

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