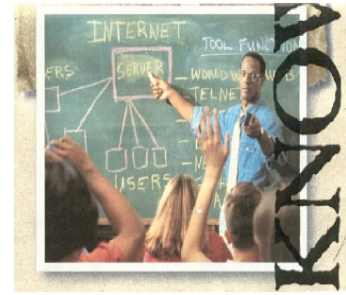




(PREVENTION PROJECT TO INTERVENE)

TARGETS: YOUTH ILLITERACY & EMOTIONAL ILLITERACY
"Is An Ounce Of Prevention Worth A Pound of Cure?"



A. ILLITERACY: ILLITERACY COSTS THE UNITED STATES MORE THAN \$225 BILLION A YEAR IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY. IT IS INTRICATELY TIED TO UNEMPLOYMENT, CRIME, POVERTY AND FAMILY PROBLEMS.

- ⇒ 75% of all unemployed adults have reading and/or writing difficulties
- ⇒ 7 in ten 10 adults sentenced to prison perform at the lowest literacy levels.
- ⇒ 60% percent of all juvenile offenders have reading problems
- ⇒ Two-thirds of the world's illiterate are women, yet in America women are the predominate single family parent group
- ⇒ \$5 billion is spent each year on welfare and unemployment compensation due to illiteracy

(COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY LITERACY OFFICE)

The United Way estimates that illiteracy costs taxpayers and businesses \$20 billion per year. An astonishing 40 percent of American fourth graders can't read at the "basic" level.



B. EMOTIONAL ILLITERACY: "I CRY... WHEN THEY CALL ME RETARD."

TRUE STORY: Khalil, scared that Ian and Tyrone were going to beat him up, brought a .38 caliber pistol to school one morning, and, 15 feet from a school guard, shot both boys to death at point-blank range in the school's hallway. The incident, chilling as it is, can be read as yet another sign of a desperate need for lessons in handling emotions,

settling disagreements peaceably, and just plain getting along. Educators, long disturbed by schoolchildren's lagging scores in math and reading, are realizing there is a different and more alarming deficiency: emotional illiteracy.

EMOTIONAL LITERACY: THE NEW YORK TIMES (MARCH 3, 1992)

Studies show that one in three young people in this country drop out of high school before earning their diploma, while nearly thirty million adults lack basic literacy skills.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ADULT LITERACY. (2008). Reach Higher, America: Overcoming Crisis in the U.S. Workforce. New York: Author.

Though positive strides in illiteracy prevention are happening, root deficiencies in youth due to prevention obstacles are yielding more serious learning barriers within students. Consequently, teachers and principals are left to struggle for solutions resulting in tension, loss of hope, low expectations and in some learning environments a helpless sense of quiet desperation.