

Voices on Schools Without Fear

A collaboration by
Charlotte Reed and Daniel Shaw

I wish I attended a school without fear,
Where gangs, guns, and violence we did not hear;
Where girls could walk unmolested,
And your manhood wasn't daily tested.

An Elementary Principal:

I often dream of a school without fear,
Where so many wouldn't die before the end of the year;
Where such young girls don't get pregnant or have social disease,
Or let these guys do with them whatever they please.

A Secondary Teacher:

I wish I worked in a school without fear,
And we didn't need the police or security here;
Where kids weren't strung-out on crack or other drugs,
Living life too quickly imitating neighborhood thugs.

A Middle School Student:

I, too, dream of a school without fear,
Where lockers hold coats and books instead of guns and beer;
Where students care less about thumpin' and rappin',
And teachers do more than fussin' and nappin'.

A School Counselor:

I'm happy to report mine is a school with less fear,
We hold Invitational Education very dear;
Our places are bright and people care,
Our programs are exciting and our policies fair.

We tried it, we liked it,
Because it reduced the fear;
And we don't have to lament,

"There are no children here."

Presented by Charlotte Reed at the close of International Alliance for Invitational Education Conference, "Schools Without Fear", October 26, 1996, Virginia Beach, VA. Dr. Reed is an Associate Professor of Education at Indiana University Northeast where she is Director of the Urban Teacher Education Program. Dr. Daniel Shaw is Department Chair of Behavioral Medicine, Health Professions Division, at Nova Southeastern University.