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Bullying Intervention and Communication Skills Workshop:

Understanding and Supporting the Safe School Ambassadors

The Problem:

Schools and youth-serving organizations everywhere are being negatively impacted by youth-on-youth mistreatment. Students and their families are deeply affected by this problem. Incidents of bullying, intolerance, put-downs, and exclusion are far too common and far too costly. This mistreatment is getting younger, meaner, harder to identify, and more acceptable. Moreover, many of these incidents happen when and where adults are not present.

Bullying and other types of mistreatment undermine student achievement, are harmful to young people's social and emotional development, and can erode staff morale. These are challenging issues for families to address, especially since parents/guardians or other adults are often unaware of the incidents that are happening.

Influential student leaders hold the key to preventing and stopping this mistreatment: they see, hear, and know things adults don't and can intervene in ways adults can't. That is the power of this research-based, field-tested, youth-centered program called Safe School Ambassadors® (SSA).

The Workshop:

This engaging and informative, 2-hour workshop will help parents/guardians of Safe School Ambassadors gain an increased understanding of emotional and physical violence – especially relational aggression and cyber-bullying – and their impact on:

- learning/academic achievement, attendance and participation in school
- child/youth development
- school climate and security.

Through a series of hands-on SSA training activities and samples of SSA training materials, parents will deepen their understanding of the SSA program's components, and learn more about what their children are doing as Ambassadors. Parents will also learn how to use communication skills and strategies to encourage their children and other youth to talk with them about difficult issues, and ways parents can work with school leaders to reduce mistreatment and improve school climate.

Workshop participants will:

- learn about the extent and cost of mistreatment, as well as efforts to address it;
- learn more about the SSA program and ways to support their children's involvement;
- gain knowledge and skills for communicating more effectively with their children.

Cost: The cost for a 2-hour SSA-parents workshop is \$500, plus expenses, which are minimal when hosted in tandem with a Safe School Ambassadors program training.

The cost includes training materials.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, please contact: Dr. Sally Ember, Outreach Coordinator, 707-823-6159 x 102, or sallyember@community-matters.org

