



Whole School Climate (WSC):
A Call To Action

WSC? OMG!

The prospect of launching an effort to transform the social-emotional climate of a district's schools – or even one school – could easily be considered too daunting to begin. So many people and constituencies, so many variables, so many other specific outcomes that must be achieved to meet state and federal mandates... and no budget. No way.

But due diligence and tight budgets demand a close and candid examination of the costs and consequences of continuing the current course. To support that process, Community Matters provides a School Climate Loss and Cost Recovery Calculator for quantifying the financial impact of bullying and other forms of mistreatment.

And what if the climate were warmed by one degree?

- How much would attendance – and ADA revenue – increase?
- How many fewer suspensions would occur? And how much administrative time would that free up for tasks more supportive of the district's core educational mission?
- How would staff morale – and retention – change if teachers had fewer disruptive students to deal with during and after class?

In that examination process, many schools and districts have seen the value of beginning a Whole School Climate change initiative.

What you can do, or dream you can do, begin it;
Boldness has genius, power and magic in it.
- Goethe

Your Partner

Community Matters is a 501(c)(3) educational non-profit with a seasoned team of educators & trainers. We partner with schools, districts, and other organizations, helping them generate – and successfully follow – a road map for systemic and sustainable whole school climate change.

We recognize that each school and district has unique circumstances, strengths and needs, so our work is highly customized, beginning “where you are” and helping you reach your goals.

Preliminary Assessment – No Charge or Obligation

We recognize that it can be challenging to determine where and how to begin. To help, we offer a free preliminary assessment:

- You provide information about your school or district efforts, results, and concerns (confidentiality is assured).
- We review your information and provide preliminary recommendations that will help you focus your efforts and determine next steps.

Integrated Programs and Services

Community Matters' programs and services help schools and districts take full advantage of the power of each of the five determinants of school climate. They include:

1. Organizational

Administrators' Training – knowledge and tools for leading a successful organizational whole school climate change process.

Consulting, Coaching, and Technical Assistance with Planning and Implementation – individualized support that can also include policy review, program development and other specialized services.

2. Staff

Staff Development Sessions – empower and equip staff members to be effective participants in climate change, building assets with students while increasing their educational effectiveness.

Positive School Climate Modules Training of Trainers – equips influential district and site staff with knowledge and resources to conduct a coherent set of ten professional development sessions that improve relationships, teaching practice, and climate.

3. Students – involving elementary, middle and high school students

Safe School Ambassadors – an evidence-based program that engages powerful students to speak up to prevent and stop bullying, and build positive social norms.

Stand Up / Speak Up Assembly – enrolls students in building a positive climate and introduces basic prevention and intervention skills.

Connect & Respect – a deeper, full-day experience that strengthens relationships and reduces conflict between students.

Youth Summit – a day of dialogue for diverse and influential youth in a school or district to deepen mutual understanding and trust, explore common issues, generate recommendations, and step up to work with adults on solutions.

4. Parents & Family

Parent Education Workshops – two-hour, skill-based session helps parents/guardians work with children and school staff to improve communication and stop bullying.

5. Community

Safer Schools Symposium – provides high-level decision-makers in a city, county, or region with current research and best-practice strategies – and solidifies their support – for school climate improvement efforts.

We invite you to contact us with any questions, or to begin your free preliminary assessment.