



SCHOOL STAFF DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

Empowering Staff and Students to Reduce Bullying and Violence and Improve School Climate

The Problem:

Schools and youth-serving organizations everywhere are being negatively impacted by youth-on-youth mistreatment. These incidents of bullying, harassment, put-downs, and exclusion are far too common and far too costly. This mistreatment is getting younger, meaner, harder to identify, and more acceptable.

Bullying and related behaviors undermine student achievement, are harmful to young people's social and emotional development, and can erode staff morale. Even though there are policies and consequences designed to deter these behaviors, research has shown that these measures alone are not enough. Reducing bullying and violence can be achieved by equipping all staff with a greater understanding of the complex nature of bullying and increasing skills for building strong youth-adult relationships.

The Workshop:

This engaging and informative workshop will help staff/faculty members understand the nature and extent of emotional and physical violence, relational aggression and cyber-bullying – and their impact on learning/academic achievement, attendance and participation in school, child/youth development, and school climate and security. The session will demonstrate ways to significantly increase the ease and effectiveness of adult interactions with students. Participants will leave equipped with better observation, relationship and intervention skills that they can immediately use to:

- identify, prevent and de-escalate student mistreatment
- be more proactive in building trust with students, inspiring them to break the “code of silence” and report potentially unsafe situations to adults
- equip and empower students to prevent and reduce bullying and violence

Through a series of hands-on activities, participants will learn and practice communication skills and proactive intervention strategies they can use to increase their students' trust and willingness to talk with them. Participants will also learn about other best practices in bullying prevention and school climate improvement, including a research-based, field-tested, youth-centered program called Safe School Ambassadors®, and what they can do to support it on their campus.

Time: ½ -day (3–4 hours) to full-day (6–7 hours)

Cost: The cost for hosting a ½ -day workshop is \$1000; a full day workshop is \$1800. Trainer's expenses are additional. Expenses are estimated at \$200/day (no expenses when hosted in tandem with a Safe School Ambassadors program training). Longer workshops offer more time for practice and discussion and more in-depth understanding. The cost includes training materials and skills practice scripts.

For more information or to schedule a workshop, please contact Community Matters at 707-823-6159, or email: outreach@community-matters.org