

DOES YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL NEED THE KIND & SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE?

Barry K. Weinhold, Kindness Campaign Director

These are questions for parents to ask the principal at the school where your children attend. (Yes or No):

1. Does the school have a plan in place to recognize and promote positive acts of kindness by students every day at the school? Ask to see the plan.
2. Are there more opportunities at this school for students to be recognized for positive, pro-social behaviors than opportunities to be recognized for negative or anti-social behaviors? Also, ask your child to answer this question.
3. Does the faculty or staff have established ways of recognizing and supporting the positive and kind acts that they do at this school? Ask for examples.
4. Does the school have a school-wide policy for dealing with bullying? Ask to see a copy.
5. Has the school developed effective ways to reduce or eliminate student to student put-downs? Ask for examples.
6. Does the school teach all students effective conflict resolution skills?
7. Has the school been able to significantly reduce the number of discipline referrals?
8. Does the school have a peer mediation program to help settle student disputes peacefully?
9. How many students are suspended or expelled each year? What % are minority students?
10. Does the school have a safety plan & an emergency disaster plan in place? Ask to see a copy of these plans.

Key: If the principal answers "No" to any of the above questions, ask him or her to contact the Kind & Safe Schools Initiative (KASSI) to help change the climate of this school and help make the school safer for your child. In addition to helping create a more positive school climate where students learn to be more kind and respectful of each other, KASSI helps a school develop a bullying prevention program, a peer mediation program, a conflict resolution curriculum and a restorative justice program.

HOW CAN THE KIND & SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE HELP SCHOOLS?

- Get a copy of the "Don't Laugh At Me" gateway program
- Purchase a copy of "Spreading Kindness: A Program Guide For Reducing Youth and Peer Violence in Schools." This Guide has 180 activities to select from for your school.
- Create a school-wide Kind & Safe Schools Committee with parents, teachers & students to plan activities for the school year.
- Have students design posters with positive messages or slogans like "Kindness is Cool at _____ School," or "School Kindness Zone--Kindness Happens Here."
- Begin the school day by having students read "attitude booster" messages created by students, teachers, administrators and parents.
- Design kindness T-shirts or sweatshirts with positive messages on them. Have a "Kindness Day" each week where everyone is encouraged to wear his or her shirts.
- Have a Kindness bulletin board with pictures from kindness activities at the school.
- Hold regular Kindness awards in classrooms with periodic all school Kindness Assemblies.
- Have a Kindness Drop Box to collect nominations of students, staff or faculty for Kindness Awards. Select winners each week and read them over the intercom.
- Have students write essays about how some act of kindness has touched or changed their lives.
- Develop an all-school bullying & put-down prevention program & policy.

- Train students to become peer mediators.
- Teach a unit on conflict resolution skills to all students.
- Line up community service projects each week where students can sign up
- Set up a peer tutoring or have older students tutor younger ones.
- Have each classroom "adopt a hallway" or part of the school grounds to keep it clean.

If you are interested in learning more about how your school can benefit from the Kind & Safe Schools Initiative, please contact:

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