


THE PROTECTED SCHOOL:

Helping Youth Become Successful, Prosocial Members of Society

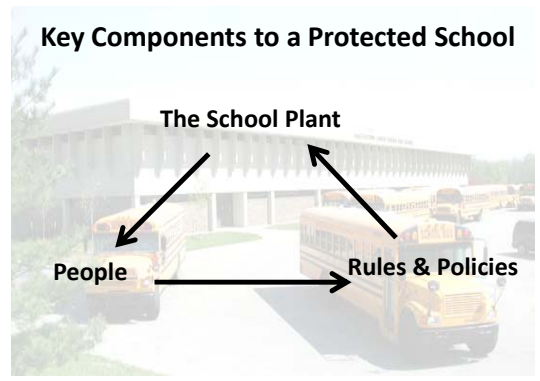


Texas Behavioral Health Institute
 July 20, 2011

Presented By:
 Darby Merriman, ACPS
 Director of Training & Development


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Key Components to a Protected School



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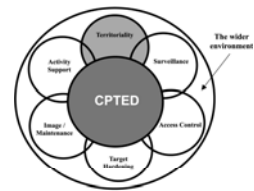
The School Plant



School safety is the responsibility of **EVERYONE** - staff, students, parents, and the community.

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The School Plant



Source: Adapted from Maffei (1982, p. 21)

- Campuses are required to conduct Safety and Security Audits per Texas Education Code 37.108
- Annual Assessments should be made by CPTED consultants
- CPTED GUIDELINES
http://www.victoria.ca/common/pdfs/planning_cepted.pdf

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Campus Audit

- 1. Entrance conference
- 2. Walk-through
- 3. Observation of students' lunch period and movement in school.
- 4. Observation of students' dismissal from school.
- 5. Brief exit interview with the principal.

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Rules and Policies


- Well-communicated
- Consistently enforced discipline policies
- Specific rules and consequences
- Respectful treatment



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Rules and Policies

Examination of campus information and documents



→ Site Plan Assessment

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What if PREVENTATIVE MEASURES fail?

- Written crisis plan
 - natural disasters
 - bomb threats
 - fire
 - homicide
 - hostage situations



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Crisis Plan

- Crisis Team
 - Assignments
 - Practice Drills
 - Regular Meetings




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Hidden Guns Video

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xwAl8HWh9io>

Hardening the Physical Target Will Not Solve the Problem

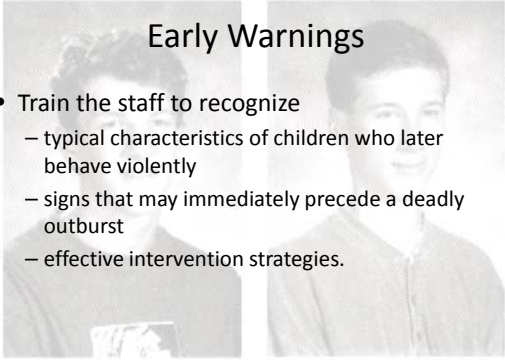


Research shows that a positive relationship with an adult who is available to provide support when needed is one of the most critical factors in preventing student violence.

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Early Warnings

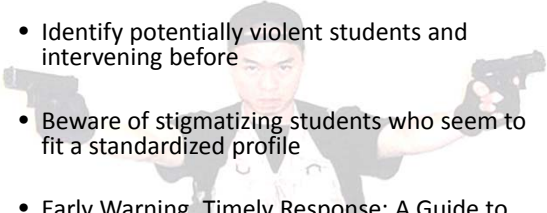
- Train the staff to recognize
 - typical characteristics of children who later behave violently
 - signs that may immediately precede a deadly outburst
 - effective intervention strategies.



Dylan Kiebold paxUnited - The National Mediation Center (800) 650-5247 Eric Harris AP Photo/Chris Wedel


The People

- Identify potentially violent students and intervening before
- Beware of stigmatizing students who seem to fit a standardized profile
- Early Warning, Timely Response: A Guide to Safe Schools (Dwyer and others 1998)




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Additional Resources



Available at <https://www.oag.state.tx.us/>


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Department of Education Bottom Line

Positive attitudes and behavior among students can be fostered by:

- teaching prosocial skills
- anger management
- peer mediation programs



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"If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, in a state of civilization, it expects what never was and never will be."


- Thomas Jefferson, 1816

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So, what does it all mean?



- Children Who Are
 - less verbal
 - more diverse
 - less socially skilled
 - less achievement oriented
 - less respectful
 - angry
 - afraid
- A Society That Is
 - busier
 - more diverse
 - separated
 - less interested
 - angry
 - less supportive
 - afraid

Motivated by Monetary Success

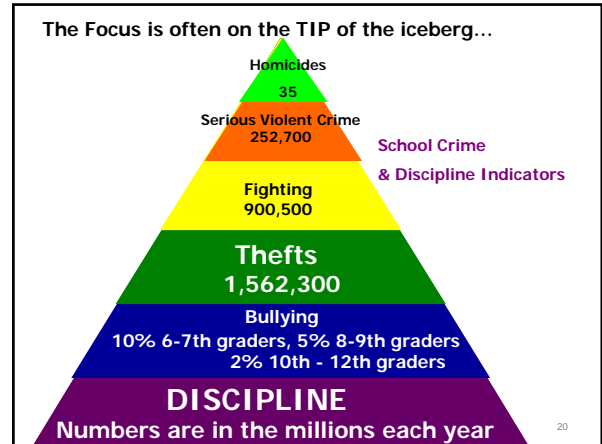
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“The World’s a’changin’ and it ain’t changing for the better.”

Gabby Hayes

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Peers Making Peace Video

<http://www.youtube.com/user/paxunited#p/a/u/0/xs0a3pMQHM>

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- Research-based, age-appropriate, and developmentally sound curricula
- Students take responsibility for solving their own problems, which allows teachers to concentrate on teaching.
- Noted for its cultural and ethnic sensitivity, the seemingly bias-free training
- The program provides students with the kind of insight and techniques that will serve them throughout life


- Provides excellent guidance and step-by-step procedures for implementing it effectively making it is easily replicable
- Each participating school selects a group of 16 to 24 students that represent the community’s racial, ethnic, and gender demographics
- Does not detract from regular instruction, but rather molds itself to the character of the school and its atmosphere.
- This program develops and enhances these resiliency assets while providing a strong, clear “no use” message.

Skills Developed

- Conflict resolution
- Non-verbal communication
- Refusal skills
- Questioning techniques
- Maintaining neutrality
- Cultural respect
- Anger Management
- Problem-Solving
- Communication




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Key Risk Factors

Individual	Family	Peer/School	Neighborhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Early aggressive behavior -Beliefs of supportive violence -Social cognitive deficits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of parental supervision -Exposure to violence -Parental drug/alcohol abuse -Poor emotional attachment to parents or caregivers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -associate with peers engaged in high-risk behavior -Low commitment to school -Academic failure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -poverty and diminished economic development -High levels of transiency and family disruption -Exposure to violence





Key Protective Factors

Individual	Family	Peer/School	Neighborhood
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Self-Control -Dedication to education -Problem solving skills -Critical thinking skills -Ability to seek sources of support 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Parental Monitoring -Strong bond between parent/child -Parental involvement in the child's life -Clear limits and consistent discipline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Academic Competence -A supportive and respectful environment within the school -Positive peer bonding -Climate of connectedness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Strong community and neighborhood attachment -Opportunity to participate in community activities -Shared responsibilities -Meaningful youth-adult interaction



External Assets

- Support
- Empowerment
- Boundaries and Expectations
- Constructive Use of Time

Internal Assets






- Commitment to Learning
- Positive Values
- Social Competencies
- Positive Identity



MEDIATORS


- Good Listeners
- Use Neutral Words
- Fact-finder
- Caring and Supportive
- Help people hear each others point of view
- Help people feel safe to talk

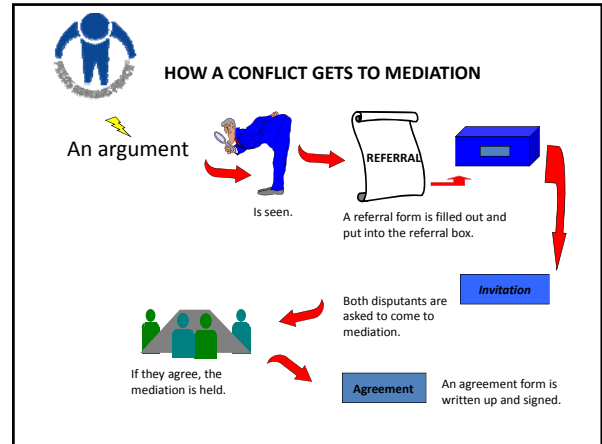


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MEDIATIONS


- Voluntary
- Allow disputants to express their points of view
- Identify their needs
- Clarify issues
- Explore solutions
- Reach an agreement






With PEERS MAKING PEACE...

Students take responsibility for solving their own problems, which allows teachers to concentrate on teaching...



Why it works...

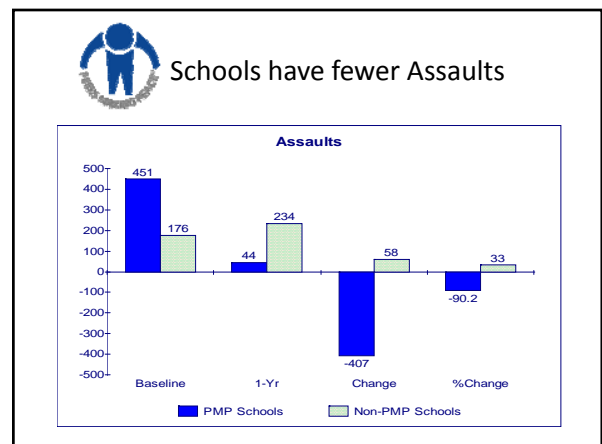
- The strength of PMP is that it EMPOWERS students to solve their problems peacefully and equitably, which means they will behave more responsibly.
- PMP is based on problem solving, not punishment, which is where the effectiveness of the program lies.
- Schools with successful mediation programs consistently report reduced violence, vandalism and absenteeism.
- Mediation can be more effective than detention or suspension in resolving problem behaviors.

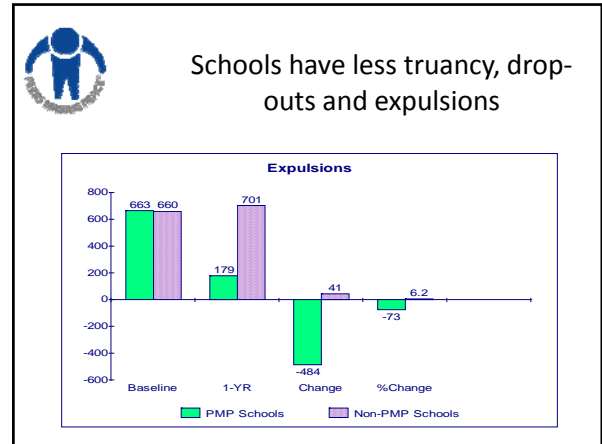
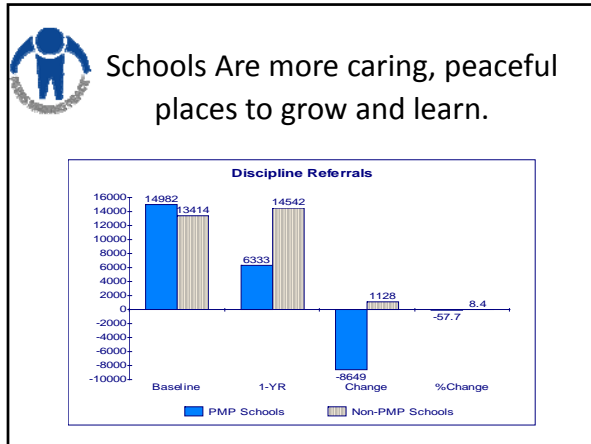


Evaluation

- Reviewers found that the program does an excellent job of documenting the research-based rationale and the practices all reveal logical theoretical underpinnings
- Reviewers for the U.S. Department of Education said the program is ***“education in its truest sense”***

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SCHOOLS SEE INCREASES IN STANDARDIZED TEST SCORES

Standardized Test Scores Rose by 18.9%

- PMP is providing students with the environment, knowledge, and skills they will need to lead productive lives into the twenty-first century.
- It is not surprising that the Peers Making Peace schools showed a measurable increase in state standardized test performance



Peers Making Peace is...

CSAP Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
 Included in SAMSHA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices

This program is also endorsed as a course for middle school local credit and high school state graduation credit by the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

We have a history of success...

- With Peers Making Peace**
- Students take responsibility for solving their own problems, which allows teachers to concentrate on teaching
 - Students are provided with the kind of insight and techniques that will serve them throughout life
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Evaluation

Schools with Peers Making Peace:

- Expulsion numbers dropped by 73%
- Assaults decreased by over 90%
- Discipline Referrals declined by 58%
- State standardized test scores increased by nearly 19%

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POSITIVE ACTION CENTER



A peer-to-peer mentoring program that produces results

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What We Know Nationwide!

- Each school day, **7,000** students dropout of school
- 1 out of 3 students do not graduate
- 3 out of 4 state prison inmates did not graduate
- Students who dropout are 3 times more likely to fall into poverty
- Each student who drops out earns approximately 35% less annually

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“Every time you stop a school, you will have to build a jail. What you gain at one end you lose at the other.”

- Mark Twain

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The Cost in Texas

- Dropouts will cost taxpayers \$377 million annually
- Texas has 119,000 dropouts each year
- The state spends approximately \$3200 per year on a student for the 13 years they are expected to be in school. If a student drops out, the state continues to spend at least that much on him/her annually for the next 50 years.
 - increased Medicaid costs, incarceration costs, and loss of tax revenue

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"Dropping out of high school is no longer an option. It's not just quitting on yourself, it's quitting on your country, and this country needs and values the talents of every American."

Barack Obama
44th President of the United States

Students in ISS or AEP:

- Get behind on assignments
- Miss critical instruction
- Feel picked on or targeted
- Feel isolated
- Feel disliked and insignificant
- Continue the behavior
- If habitual, fall into the category of "throw away kid"
- Are negatively impacted by their peers



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The Answer: Positive Action Center

Goals:

- Reduce number of students referred to ISS/AEP
- Encourage improved decision making skills
- Develop better communication skills
- Develop problem solving skills
- Develop improved listening skills
- Build resiliency skills
- Reduce violence



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How it works!

- Voluntary process
- A student mentor works with the student to build an action plan that allows them to take responsibility and find his/her own solutions
- Mentor does not advise, they just listen and help facilitate the process



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Positive Action Center Evaluation

- Reduction in tardiness
- Reduction in overall disciplinary referrals
- Reduction in student recidivism
- Reduction in expulsions
- Reduction in dropouts
- Reduction in violent outbursts
- Improved attendance
- Improved classroom management
- Improved learning environment
- Improved GPA



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paxUnited's School-Based Programs



- Peers Making Peace®
- PeaceKeepers @ Course
- Positive Action Center @ (PAC)
- Let's Talk It Out
- No Room for Bullies
- Extraordinary People Living Character
- Parents for Peace®
- Anger Management Services

Contact Information

Darby Merriman, ACPS
Director of Training & Development

2155 Chenault Drive, Suite 410
Carrollton, TX 75006

800.650.5247
(v) 972.671.9550
(f) 972.671.9549

darby.merriman@paxunited.org

www.paxunited.org



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