

## Universal Impact of *Peers Making Peace*© in Schools

*Peers Making Peace (PMP)* impacts universal, selected and indicated populations. There are very few individuals in the school environment who deal with conflict prosocially or even productively without training and skill development; therefore, the use of *PMP* on school campuses enhances the ability of every person who experiences it to handle conflict constructively. The program has shown significant results with the general population as well as with the high risk and at risk students.

The selected *PMP* team consists of students who are representative of the entire student body. Up to 20% of the group may be selected from “negative leaders.” This selection criterion ensures that everyone on the campus can feel that in mediation he or she will be listened to with understanding. It also ensures that all groups on the campus will hear about the program and be invited to participate.

The *PMP* training and the program itself utilizes the latest in brain research. Issues are addressed so that the dialogue follows a pattern that builds to understanding and agreement. Short-term and long-term memory are engaged. The patented skill development method used in the program training results in comprehension and retention well over 90%. When the trained mediation team engages disputants in the conflict resolution process, the disputants themselves quickly learn and adopt the same techniques for use in future disputes.

Within the first semester of program implementation, the technique moves from delivery by the mediators to delivery by the disputants. The program continues to spread as students who are not a formal part of the mediation team offer to mediate other peoples’ disputes. The disputants who have participated in mediation resolve their own conflicts using the skills of mediation and even take their skills home for use in their families and social settings.

*PMP* improves the developmental assets of students. This a research-based program that produces scientifically defensible evaluation outcomes which demonstrate improvement in school environments, increases in grades, reductions in alcohol and other drug abuse, discipline referrals and assaults.

<b>Developmental Asset Type</b>	<i>Peers Making Peace</i> Contribution
<b>Caring School Climate</b>	<i>Peers Making Peace</i> provides a venue for students to be listened to when involved in conflicts with peers, teachers, or school staff. Positive Action Centers (peer mediation in alternative settings) provide students who have been removed from class for disciplinary reasons a setting in which to examine the problem and develop an action plan to rectify the situation.
<b>Caring Neighborhood</b>	<i>Peers Making Peace</i> is a very effective tool for eliciting caring behaviors in neighborhood youth focused organizations.
<b>Empowerment being valued by the community</b>	Every child needs to feel significant and loved in his/her environment. Peer mediation programs provide every child the opportunity to be listened to and respected. These are fundamental to having a sense of value.

<b>Being a resource</b>	Peers are our most valuable resources. With appropriate training and skill development, children have been shown to be excellent resources for numerous essential programs. <i>Peers Making Peace</i> © programs involve an ever-increasing number of children in conflict resolution activities.
<b>Service to others</b>	Peer mediation offers young people the opportunity to serve their community and school. Research has shown that not only do the trained mediators serve as conflict resolvers, but in many instances, those who come to mediation as disputants use the process to help others in conflict resolve their issues prosocially.
<b>Safety</b>	Young people whose environment provides them access to a quality peer mediation program feel safer. Schools with <i>Peers Making Peace</i> are safer, more caring learning environments.
<b>Boundaries &amp; Expectations- Family</b>	<i>Parents for Peace</i> © helps parents and children establish clear rules and consequences through constructive communication.
<b>School</b>	By acting as Re-entry Mediators, <i>Peers Making Peace</i> helps schools officials and children returning from alternative settings establish clear rules, expectations, and consequences through caring, constructive communication.
<b>Adult Role Models</b>	<i>Peers Making Peace</i> provides training programs for adults as well as children so that significant adults can respond to conflict prosocially.
<b>Positive Peer Influence</b>	<i>Peers Making Peace</i> programs encourage all students to use peer mediation to resolve conflict. Peer mediators model this by using mediation to resolve their own conflicts.
<b>High Expectations</b>	Schools, families, and youth serving institutions which have <i>Peers Making Peace</i> expect youth to resolve conflict prosocially, expect them to act responsibly and have compassion for others.
<b>Constructive Use of Time Creative Activities</b>	Peer mediators spend three to five hours a week in community service as part of a youth program.

<b>Religious Community</b>	<i>PMP</i> provides an outreach program for the religious community to touch the lives of children. School-based and faith-based programs are working collaboratively in many communities.
<b>Time at Home</b>	Through the use of the mediation process in family meetings and to resolve parent/child conflict. Research has shown that children spend more time at home with the family when families deal with conflict constructively.
<b>Commitment to Learning Achievement motivation</b>	Research has shown that schools with <i>Peers Making Peace</i> © have an increase in the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• students' desire to do well in school;</li> <li>• number of students who are actively engaged in learning;</li> <li>• number of students who care about school.</li> </ul>
<b>Positive Values</b>	Schools with <i>Peers Making Peace</i> have an increase in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the sense of caring among students and staff. Research has shown that there is an increase in the value placed on helping others;</li> <li>• the sense of equality and social justice;</li> <li>• the numbers of children who are able to stand up for their beliefs and convictions. Schools with <i>PMP</i> provide a safe place for children to speak honestly even when it is not easy;</li> <li>• the students' sense of self-responsibility.</li> </ul> <p>Schools with <i>PMP</i> provide a safe place for children to say "no" to becoming sexually active or to use alcohol or other drugs.</p>
<b>Social Competencies Planning ahead &amp; Decision Making</b>	Students in schools with the <i>Peers Making Peace</i> have an increased ability to make decisions, choices, and plan ahead.
<b>Interpersonal competence</b>	Students in schools with <i>PMP</i> demonstrate increased empathy, sensitivity, and friendship skills.
<b>Cultural competence</b>	Students in schools with <i>Peers Making Peace</i> have an increased knowledge of and comfort with people of different racial, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds.

<b>Resistance skills</b>	Students in schools with <i>PMP</i> have increased abilities to resist negative peer pressure and dangerous situations.
<b>Peaceful conflict resolution</b>	Students in schools with <i>PMP</i> are much more likely to seek prosocial ways to resolve conflict than those with no peer mediation program.
<b>Positive Identity Personal Power:</b>	Students in schools with <i>PMP</i> feel an increased control over “things that happen to them.”
<b>Self-esteem</b>	Students involved in <i>Peers Making Peace</i> © have increased levels of self-esteem. (Those who are peer mediators have greater increases than those who use the mediation program as disputants, but both have increases.)
<b>Sense of purpose</b>	Students involved in <i>Peers Making Peace</i> have an increased sense of purpose.
<b>Positive view of personal future</b>	Students involved in <i>Peers Making Peace</i> have a more positive view of their personal future.

One of our students put it simplest and best: “*Peers Making Peace*© is like a disease, only a good one. It’s like you’ve brought a cold to our school and exposed everyone, and we’ve all caught it. The difference is that this cold makes us all feel better about being here.”

