

*Executive Summary  
of the*

**Evaluation Report**

**The Safe School Ambassadors<sup>®</sup> Program:  
A Student Led Approach to  
Reducing Mistreatment and Bullying in Schools**

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## Executive Summary

Safe School Ambassadors (SSA) is a student-centered bystander education program developed by Community Matters to reduce bullying/mistreatment and enhance school climate. A two-part program evaluation was designed to assess the efficacy of the program's logic model, and its impact on school-level discipline indicators; several statistically significant outcomes ( $p < 0.05$ ) were obtained.

For the first part, a two-year evaluation was conducted in five middle schools in Texas using a quasi-experimental pre-post-post design. After two years, rates of helpful intervention were higher for male Ambassadors than for their controls. Ambassadors' Friends noticed more helpful interventions and reported observing less mistreatment than Friends of Key Students at the control schools. Process data indicated positive effects on discipline and overall climate.

For the second part, suspension and other discipline data was gathered from nineteen schools that implemented the SSA program with a high degree of fidelity to internal benchmarks, and from demographically matched non-SSA schools that served as controls. Analysis of suspensions and other discipline indicators at SSA schools showed reductions averaging 33%, while indicators at matched control schools rose 10% during the same years.

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Selected tables and figures follow.

A copy of the full Evaluation Report is available for download from [www.community-matters.org/downloads/EvaluationReportSSA2011.pdf](http://www.community-matters.org/downloads/EvaluationReportSSA2011.pdf)

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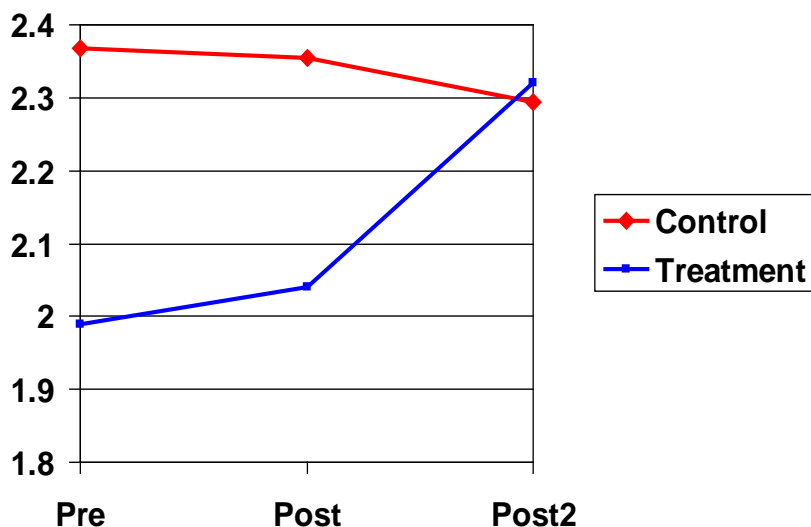
## Selected Tables and Figures

**Table 1: Summary of participants and roles in the SSA program and evaluation**

	Program		Evaluation		
	SSA Role	Definition	Treatment (SSA school)	Control (Non-SSA School)	Instrumentation and Data Collection
Students	Ambassador	Students trained to stop mistreatment	Ambassador	Key Student	Ambassador or Key Student Survey. Climate Surveys flagged for analysis as a group
	N/A	Students named by Ambassadors or Key Students (via their respective surveys) as being one of the 10 people they “hang out” with the most.	Friends	Friends	Climate Surveys flagged for analysis as a group
	N/A		All Students*	All Students*	Climate Surveys
Adults	Family Group Facilitator	Adults trained to provide support, supervision, and skill development to Ambassadors via small-group meetings throughout the year.	Family Group Facilitator	N/A	Year-End Survey for FGFs
	Program Advisor	Adult who provides overall leadership, supervision, and planning.	Program Advisor	N/A	Year-End Survey for PAs
	N/A	Cross-section of adults who have insights or knowledge of student climate b/c of their position (e.g. Assistant Principal in charge of Discipline, Campus Supervisor or Yard Duty personnel) OR because of their relationship / personality (i.e. students are naturally drawn to this individual).	Key Adults	Key Adults	Key Adult Survey

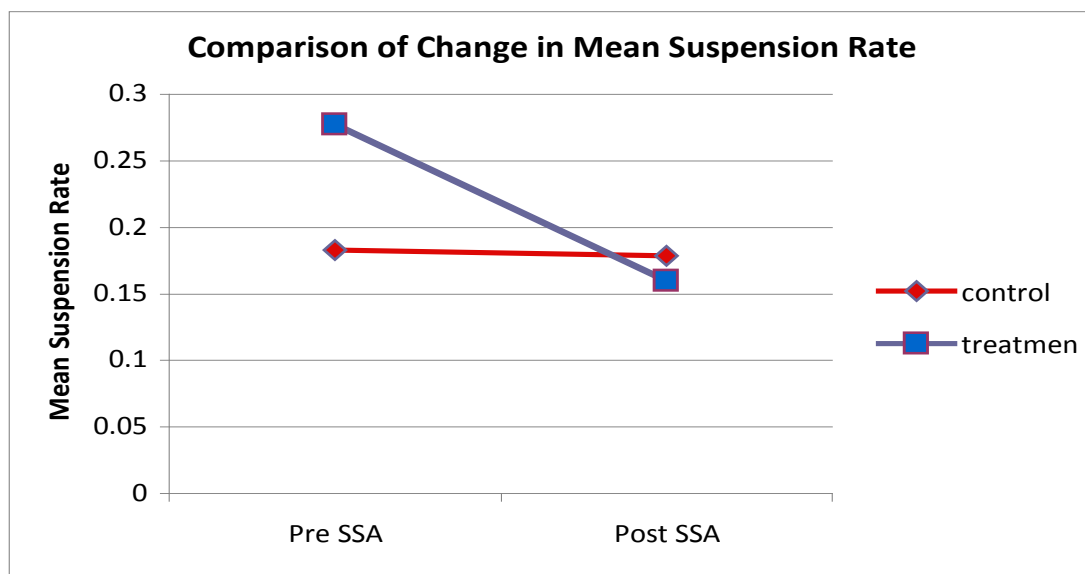
\* In year 1, the Climate Survey was completed by all students in grades 6-7, plus any 8th graders who were named by Ambassadors or Key Students as "Friends". In year 2, all students in grades 7-8 completed it.

**Figure 2: Key Adults' Observations of Active Interventions to Stop Mistreatment.**



*Key Adults were asked about how often in the previous month they noticed students intervening to prevent or stop mistreatment. Y-axis is frequency of response; scale ranges from 1 = never to 5 = always.*

**Figure 3: Change in Suspension Rate after SSA Program Implementation.**



*The decrease of 0.1174 at treatment schools was significant ( $p < 0.0001$ ).*