



Safe School Ambassadors® Program

The Safe School Ambassadors (SSA) Program is:

- A proven anti-bullying and violence-prevention program
- A research-based, field-tested logic model
- Focused on social norms change
- Student-centered: designed for students in 4th - 12th grade
- Cost-effective

The program identifies and selects student leaders from diverse groups across the campus. Ambassadors are trained in the skills of non-violent communication to stop bullying, cyberbullying and harassment.

How the Safe School Ambassadors Program empowers youth:

Few schools have fully engaged, equipped and empowered their students as peacemakers to improve school climate. As a result, students believe that they have only two options:

- To be a bystander and condone the hurtful acts they see, or
- To “tell” on their peers

The Safe School Ambassadors Program provides students a third option: to be an “upstander” - giving them the motivation, support and intervention skills to prevent and stop bullying and harassment.



“We learned how to defuse conflicts that arise in everyday life and how to create a community of peace and unity.”

- Dani, 16, Safe School Ambassador, Northern CA

Why the SSA Program is student-centered:

- Students are a powerful, often underutilized force for improving school climate
- Students see, hear and know things adults don’t
- Students can intervene in ways adults can’t
- Students are often the first to arrive on the scene of an incident before adults even know about it
- Students determine the social norms - what’s OK and what’s not - while adults set the rules, policies and consequences

Impact of the SSA Program:

- Reduces bullying and cyberbullying
- Increases student reporting to adults
- Reduces suspensions and expulsions
- Improves school climate and student retention

Since 2000, the Safe School Ambassadors Program has been implemented in over 1,400 schools, training over 53,000 students and over 9,600 adults in 32 US states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Canada.

“The Safe School Ambassadors program has provided us with a well-designed student-to-student initiative that has made a positive difference in over 30 of our district’s schools.”

- Alison Adler, Ed.D., Chief, Safety & Learning Environment
Palm Beach County, Florida



Community Matters provides:

Before the Training

Introductory Materials, including DVD and online video library, and staff orientation materials

Principal's and Program Advisor's Handbooks for the administrator and site coordinator, includes timelines, checklists, strategies, guidelines and resources to help you successfully prepare for training

Access to online forms and tools through our website

Personal coaching by our staff via phone and email to guide you through the pre-training process:

- Securing administrative and staff support
- Identifying, recruiting and selecting appropriate students and adults to be trained
- Training room and supplies requirements, and all other logistics to help make your training successful

Training handouts, including:

- Student Ambassador Guidebook with activities, skills, reflection journals and intervention tools
- Family Group Facilitator's Guides with meeting agendas, activities, strategies and more



During the Training

Two days of interactive training at your school site for selected students and adults, where:

- Students develop essential skills in observing, negotiating, intervening, reporting and referral
- Adults learn how to facilitate ongoing Family Group meetings to provide Ambassadors with supervision, skill development and support

After the Training

Post-training follow-up by our coaching staff and trainer

Web-based Program Tools and searchable Help Desk

Webinars on best-practices program implementation

Newsletters containing best practices, and tips from other successful SSA schools

Program Assessment and Measurement Tools:

- Action "Snapshot" Campaigns, measuring Ambassadors' activity
- Discipline Data forms and coaching to measure program impact on school climate
- Year-End Surveys for Ambassadors and program adults

Optional Program Assessment Tools (Pre- and Post-Training):

- School Climate Survey
- Key Adults Survey

The Safe School Ambassadors Program complements other school climate improvement efforts

The SSA Program functions as a stand-alone program, as well as a complement to other programs such as: Olweus, PBIS, peer mentoring, conflict mediation, student empowerment, character education and others.

Program Costs

\$5095* for program, 4th - 12th grade levels, PLUS estimated additional \$1300-\$1500 travel/accommodation costs, depending on school location and which trainer is assigned.

* For the materials, training, pre/post training support and coaching, a school site invests about \$160 per student trained.

Community Matters has tools and resources to help schools find funding for the Safe School Ambassadors Program. Ask us about our Funding Toolkit.

We also provide School Climate Assessment, Restorative Practices Trainings, Staff Development Trainings, Assemblies, Parent Workshops and more.