

School Community Transformation ...

About the program ...

Burlington Central Elementary School embarked on a project to positively transform its school climate and culture. In addition to school observations about bullying and an increase in absenteeism, suspensions and referrals to the office, student results on the board's School Effectiveness Survey indicated a decrease in feelings of safety and belonging. A series of student- and teacher-focused anti-bullying workshops increased knowledge and understanding about how to build and sustain effective personal and community relationships. Thanks to the cooperative learning strategies of the series, students and teachers experienced a transformation in the school community. The overall goal of the project is to sustain a learning community in which positive attitudes, values and behaviours are fostered through a student-led committee, an inclusiveness team and monthly student-led assemblies.

Student Engagement ...

“Through the inclusiveness team, and with a goal of 100 per cent participation, we're working to ensure that all students participate in school activities.”

– Maria Limanni, Vice Principal

Impact on student learning and school culture ...

- Experiential learning and teaching techniques concentrated on the development of empathy and problem-solving and self-advocacy skills.
- The workshops created an environment conducive to learning and solving conflicts by encouraging students to take personal responsibility for their actions.
- Students learned how to intervene and resist in bullying situations such as put-downs and harassment.
- Bullying declined and the bully/bullied/bystander cycle was broken through the development of a safe environment where students can seek help when bullied and can learn and be successful at school.
- Student leadership opportunities led to an increased sense of ownership in improving the school climate.
- The school environment became increasingly welcoming, caring and inclusive and there was a decrease in referrals to the office.

To find out more, contact ...

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