

# Safe School Ambassadors®

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**Safe School Ambassadors is designed for students 4th - 12th grades.**

**Impact of the Safe School Ambassadors program:**

- Reduces bullying, including cyberbullying
- Increases student reporting to adults
- Reduces put-downs, harassment and fighting
- Improves school climate
- Reduces gang involvement and activity

**The Safe School Ambassadors program is:**

- Research-based, field-tested, logic model
- An effective anti-bullying and violence-prevention program
- Student-centered
- Focused on social norms change
- Cost-effective

The program identifies and selects student leaders from diverse groups across the campus and forms them into a team of Safe School Ambassadors. Ambassadors are trained in the skills of nonviolent communication.

**Safe School Ambassadors have these qualities:**

- High social status and influence in their peer groups
- Strong communication skills and an outgoing personality
- A sense of right and wrong, valuing what is fair
- Empathy and compassion
- A history of standing up for others

**Why the Safe School Ambassadors program is student-centered:**

**Students are in the best position to intervene because:**

- Students see, hear and know things that adults don't
- Students can intervene in ways adults can't
- Students are often the first to arrive on the scenes of most incidents before adults even know about the incidents
- Students determine the social norms—what's OK and what's not—while adults set the rules, policies and consequences



*"Every school should have this program, because one person can make a big difference."*

Emily, 10th-grader, Long Beach, CA

**How the Safe School Ambassadors (SSA) program empowers youth:**

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

1. to turn away and thus condone the hurtful acts they see
2. to "tell" on their peers

The SSA program provides Ambassadors with the motivation, skills and support to know they have a *needed 3rd option*:

**Ambassadors intervene, prevent, or stop the mistreatment they see.**

*"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,  
School District of Palm Beach County, Florida

*"In my twenty years of education, coaching and supporting student Ambassadors have been the single-most rewarding experience in my career."*

Karen Breslawski, Student Assistance Program Coordinator,  
Brockport, NY

**Facts:**

Since 2000, Safe School Ambassadors programs have been implemented in over **700** schools, training over **25,000** students and over **4,000** adults in 26 US states and 2 Canadian provinces.

