

Commitments & Considerations for High School Peer Mediation Initiative

Please use this worksheet to envision your school's peer mediation program, then share it with Amy McLoughlin before ___ day, _____, so she can help you fully prepare to send your peer mediator faculty advisor(s) to the _____ training session __:00 – __:00 am at _____.

Head Principal or other administrator will make time at least once a month to meet with peer mediators for updates and relationship-building.

We will provide dedicated space for peer mediation (PM) in _____

We will budget \$_____/a month to keep PM room stocked with food and to provide mediators some form of identity-building resources

We will ask _____ to advise and facilitate PM program.

NOTE: Faculty advisor should have:

- ✓ flexible schedule to address issues as they arise and to attend trainings as available,
- ✓ social capital with faculty & staff,
- ✓ ability to attend RJ trainings provided in initiative to develop clear understanding of restorative justice,
- ✓ collaborative relationship with administrators.

We will accept student referrals to PM by: _____

Students will be excused from class for PM through _____

We will generally allow the following issues/infractions to be handled through PM:

- Resolving conflicts between peers before they become disciplinary matters, including pursuing tips about potential conflict and meeting with students to avert potential conflicts
- Running circles in classrooms around issues/topics causing friction in student body or school community
- Addressing and trying to resolve root causes for incidents such as fights, bullying, harassment, _____
- Addressing bias-based incidents: racial, gender-based, sexual orientation, religious/cultural, _____
- Other _____

We will release peer mediators and their faculty advisor for the following trainings:

- ___ day, _____ 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
WISD Vogel A&B
- ___ day, _____ Noon – 2:30 pm
WISD Vogel B&C
- ___ day, _____ 11:00am – 2:00pm
WISD Vogel A&B (Lunch included)

We will select _____ students for the inaugural cohort of peer mediators no later than ____ day, _____ and invite them to attend the _____ Peer Mediators training at WISD. The following considerations can help in choosing candidates with the greatest likelihood of success as peer mediators:

- ✓ Potential mediators are students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades—with very few exceptions, they should have experience attending your school.
- ✓ Potential mediators are student leaders from each demographic, so PM group reflects school's student body.
- ✓ Potential mediators should have social capital among peers, recognizing that their social power may not always be directed in conforming ways.
- ✓ Potential mediators should want to be change agents, not students who simply want to pad their resume for college admissions.
- ✓ Potential mediators should have the potential to mentor younger students.
- ✓ Potential mediators should be open to learning new skills as part of their ongoing training and practice.
- ✓ Potential mediators should work well in groups, collaborating, listening and turn-taking as necessary and appropriate.

After the inaugural year, peer mediators will be chosen by their peers using an evaluation form similar to the from Skyline High School's PM Team called Sky Squad. This form is available at your school's first Peers-Making-Peace training.