

Peaceful School Bus Program

Students K-5

The Program

The Peaceful School Bus (PSB) program is designed to decrease bullying and inappropriate behavior on the elementary school bus by educating students and creating a climate of respect and cooperation. It aims to change the dynamics on the bus by having students get to know each other, assume responsibility, recognize bullying, and understand their role in preventing it. It involves the participation of teachers, administrators, parents, and bus drivers in cooperative lessons throughout the school year. There is a formal curriculum, which implemented by PSB team leaders incorporates the following components: (1) students on each bus route meet in smaller groups and use Kagan cooperative learning strategies; (2) students in higher grades interact with those in lower grades; (3) students learn the vocabulary of bullying and the roles of bully, victim and bystander; and (4) students are encouraged to generate solutions mediated by the use of books, videos, and structured activities. Parent workshops on PSB are offered during Open House sessions. The evaluation of the program is accomplished through student surveys, bus driver behavior referrals, and district-wide surveys on school safety.

Results

There have been marked decreases in behavior referrals by bus drivers since the program was introduced – from a high of 58 referrals in 1998-99 to a low of 11 referrals in 2002-03. A district-wide survey of five elementary schools showed that 3% more students in Lynnwood reported a sense of personal safety than did students at the same grade level in comparison schools. In 2003, a higher proportion of students indicate feeling comfortable reporting a problem on the bus than in 2002.



Learning Standards

Health, Physical Education & Home Economics: 2) acquire the knowledge and ability necessary to create and maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Contact

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