

# PeaceBuilders Program Implementation



## case study – teen

# Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School Targets Bullying and Harassment with Student PeaceCoaches™

### Problem:

In 2002, Assabet Valley Regional Vocational School in Marlborough, Mass. was experiencing aggressive issues relating to bullying and harassment. With 1000 students from 11 different communities merging on campus tension was high. Principal Mary Jo Nawrocki was approached by the student leadership team seeking to eliminate these incidents.

### Solution:

Staff and select students were trained by PeaceBuilders professionals to establish a common language and to use peer mediation to resolve issues peacefully. Student PeaceCoaches™ now give conduct anti-bullying presentations to communicate clear expectations of positive behavior on campus.

### Results:

Principal Nawrocki says that PeaceBuilders has created a positive, respectful school community that fosters acceptance. They have reported a decrease in violent and aggressive behaviors as well as a decrease in the number of suspensions and expulsions. The focus has shifted away from discipline and back to teaching. With students as a driving force and the support of Assabet's staff, the PeaceBuilders program has empowered all on campus to unite in their mission to create a peaceful environment. Within three years, student attendance is up to 94% and staff attendance is up to 97.5%, both above the state average.

### results:

- Bullying and harassment drastically reduced.
- Attendance up to 94%.
- Staff attendance up to 97.5%
- Suspensions and expulsions decreased.
- Marked increase in respectful behavior.

*“During one peer PeaceCoach session, a freshman student tearfully approached the student leaders seeking help from real-life bullies. The harrowing experience opened everyone’s eyes.”*

### About PeaceBuilders:

PeaceBuilders is the science-based, research-validated character education and violence prevention youth program approved for the federally funded Safe and Drug-Free Schools Act. It is a culture/curriculum hybrid program that shifts the entire climate to a peaceful, productive and safe place for children, parents and the community. Our experienced corporate team manages the PeaceBuilders program to work seamlessly with any organization seeking peaceful solutions.

### Contact:

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