

Promoting School Connectedness: The foundation for effective risk prevention efforts and student learning

Target Audience: K-12 educators and After School Professionals

Do all of your students feel connected to at least one caring and responsible adult?

Why is promoting school connectedness important?

School connectedness refers to students feeling connected to at least one caring and responsible adult. Ideally, it includes students' feeling that school is a safe, caring and engaging place to learn and grow up in.

A growing body of research has shown that one of the most important risk prevention interventions is to insure that every student feels connected to at least one caring and responsible adult. In addition, there is more and more research that has shown that school connectedness also promotes student learning and achievement.

How can this *Promoting School Connectedness* program help my school?

The workshop series will reduce risky behavior and promote student learning and achievement.

What do I get with the *Promoting School Connectedness* program?

This workshop series will help educators understand which students are not connected to at least one caring and responsible adult and develop plans to remediate this. The series will also support educators understanding what complicates our being able to connect with certain students, how to manage the boundary between being an educator and a psychotherapist and how to foster even more caring, responsible and connected relationships in your school.

With the *Promoting School Connectedness* program you will receive:

- Pre-workshop phone consultation with a consultant to determine the timeline, audience, and outcomes for this professional development strand;
- An initial half-day workshop for the faculty that will provide an overview of the school connectedness: research findings, challenges and best practices. In addition, during the half-day meeting, faculty will engage in a series of exercises that highlight which students do and do not feel connected to at least one caring and responsible adult. Plans will be developed to insure that every student feels connected to at least one caring and responsible adult.
- A follow-up, one day workshop: This workshop will focus on a range of concrete



strategies, frameworks and guidelines that support students feeling connected to the school as well as one or more adults.

- Periodic phone and email contact between our consultant and a designated “point person” in the school(s) will be an intermittent but ongoing part of the process. This will allow our consultants to understand successes and challenges and be helpful – from afar – in any and all ways that they can.

Participants will receive a field-tested manual with a wide range of information, guidelines, tools and resources.

To find out how the *Promoting School Connectedness* program can serve your school or district, call us at (212) 707-8799 or write to use at PD@schoolclimate.org to learn more about our Professional Development Services.