

## Grant Writing Template - Peaceful Playgrounds

**Grant Eligibility:** Safe Schools, conflict resolution, bullying, violence prevention, character education, physical activity, childhood obesity intervention, and positive behavior support program.

### Program Overview:

In an age when violence in schools is too often on the front page of newspapers, schools need to look at new strategies for more peaceful school environments, and more specifically, more peaceful playgrounds. Peaceful Playgrounds was designed as a preventive positive behavior support program to be implemented school wide. Being able to play cooperatively in the outside, unstructured environment empowers children, and teaches them to work cooperatively in the classroom as well. It also instills responsibility and conflict resolution skills that transcend from the playground to the classroom, the home and the community. The Peaceful Playgrounds Program provides a better-organized playground that involves children in a variety of activities that reduce injury and conflicts while motivating them to be physically active. It also helps to develop motor skills, social skills and cognitive skills through the various games and activities. Research on Peaceful Playgrounds has shown a decrease in bullying, an increase in children's physical activity levels as well as, fewer playground injuries. PP research citations can be found at:

[www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/research.htm](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com/research.htm).

- I. **Needs Statement:** Provide school site data that explains the need to implement the (conflict resolution, peer mediation, safe schools etc.) program. Identify input from a variety of sources including, but not limited to, students, school personnel, parents, law enforcement, and community members. Indicate how this grant will assist your school in accomplishing prioritized needs.

*(School Name)* is a school of (# 0) children in grades K-6. The school is located in a (*rural, urban, suburban*) neighborhood in the community of (*Health, NV*). A recent change in student diversity has brought about a need for training and tolerance of other cultures. Crime, drug use, mobility rates and low socio-economic conditions have contributed to frustration and have built tension in the local community.

School data reveals that office referrals for behavior issues have increased by (10%) over the last year. Additionally, teachers are frustrated with the

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amount of time they are losing from teaching due to resolving conflicts that spills over from the playground into the classroom. Our recent student survey reveals that (40%) of the children report being harassed by another child, (15 %) report being bullied on campus, and (50%) report an altercation while on the playground during the last school year. Only (10%) of the

Students report that they feel safe on campus all the time. Parent surveys revealed that (90%) of the students have been bullied at school on one or more occasion.

Data on our students mirrors the national trend toward overweight children. The childhood obesity rate in our community is \_\_\_\_\_.

As indicated by the above data, the need for intervention is great and the school staff has committed to implementation of the Peaceful Playgrounds Program.

II. **Goals and Measurable Objectives:** Describe the school's goals to implement a comprehensive school wide (conflict resolution program). Describe measurable objectives that the school hopes to accomplish by implementing the Peaceful Playgrounds training.

The goal of the Peaceful Playgrounds program is to provide all staff and students with a common language and set of behaviors that are part of the positive, healthy, safe environment in which students can enjoy active learning. Additionally, students will acquire skills to problem solve a peaceful resolution to school conflicts so as to insure a peaceful school culture for students and staff.

Objective 1: By (*January 200\_*), provide staff training utilizing the Peaceful Playground overview video.

Objective 2: By (*June 200\_*), students and staff will be trained in the Peaceful Playgrounds conflict resolution strategies of "Walk", "Talk", and "Rock, Paper, Scissors " problem solving methods.

Objective 3: By (*June 200\_*), students will learn a consistent set of rules for the Peaceful Playgrounds activities and choose to play them during recess.

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Objective 4: By (*June 200\_*), students will understand and be able to identify the distinctions between teasing and bullying and the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate, playful and hurtful behaviors.

Objective 5: By (*June 200\_*), parents and community will be invited to a Family Peace Day Celebration in which students will demonstrate and teach peaceful solutions and demonstrate peace strategies and skills.

III. Program Description: Provide a description of how you plan to incorporate peer mediation, conflict resolution etc, and school community involvement in your school Program, including how this program will compliment other safe school/violence prevention programs. Describe what kind of training will be provided, number of days trainings will be provided, who will provide it, and plans for attendance. Describe how team members will work together to implement the program at the school site so as it insure all staff members are trained. (Include how Special Education needs, and students who are limited English speaking will benefit).

Utilizing the components of the award winning and research based Peaceful Playgrounds program all students and staff will be trained in the conflict resolution strategies of "Walk", "Talk", and "Rock, Paper, Scissors" through the use of the Peaceful Playground overview video and staff development training transparencies during (*January 200\_*) utilizing staff meeting time. The PTA supports the implementation of the PP program by purchasing materials and working with volunteers to begin painting the 100 game designs on the playground during the month of (*March 200\_*). Between (*January and June*), the P.E. specialist in conjunction with the classroom teacher will instruct all students in the games and activities included in the program and teach a consistent set of game rules. Bi-monthly grade level meetings will allow time for discussion of implementation guidelines. During grade level and staff meeting time teachers and staff strategize about changes that need to be supported and infused into the curriculum.

In addressing the gap in the student surveys regarding bullying, classroom time will be spent in defining bullying behaviors and strategies for dealing with a bully. Training will include educating the "bystander" as to his/her role in the bullying dynamic, as well as identifying teasing and hurtful behaviors.

The School Site Council and Student Councils have committed to providing funding to sustain this researched program through the purchase and replacement of playground equipment (balls, bean bags, etc.) after the initial funding ends.

- IV. **Student Involvement:** Describe an effective plan for involving all student in the Peaceful Playgrounds strategies, including those students who typically are excluded from the formal student leadership activities, students with special needs, and students who are learning English.

The staff at (*Healthy School*) embraces the importance of inclusion of all students in our classroom instruction and playground activities. Learning the problem solving strategies within the Peaceful Playgrounds Program assists ALL students in learning to interact with their peers, develop a sense of responsibility for self and others, and establishes a sense of community within a positive school environment. Older students assist with equipment distribution, as well as train younger students in game strategies.

Peaceful Playgrounds designs are painted at ground level and therefore are ADA compliant. The four design blueprints accommodate for developmental differences and are broken down into age spans (pre-school to K, Kdg.- 3, grades 3-6 and field designs) to insure successful participation for all students and all disabilities.

- V. **Family and Community Involvement:** Explain your proposal for a planned, effective approach for involving families and the community, including local agencies that could reinforce conflict resolution strategies.

PTA and School Site Council have been involved in the search for the conflict resolution program. Both organizations have committed funds to the ongoing support of the program. PTA parents and local scout troops will organize a paint day for adding game markings to our existing playground. Teachers will reinforce problem-solving strategies in the classroom by identifying good sport students who will receive monthly awards at the Awards Assembly.

The principal's monthly newsletters inform parents and community members of the conflict resolution strategies that students are learning and provide helpful suggestions of how parents might reinforce those techniques in home situations. Monthly Peaceful Playgrounds Parent Pages inform parents of on going implementation strategies and successes.

- VI. **Evaluation:** Describe how the school will determine the degree to which the measurable objectives, stated in Section III, are accomplished. Describe the behaviors, skills and/or attitudes that will be measured to determine the program effectiveness.

A parent, student, and staff survey will be conducted annually to determine each group's perceptions of the progress toward each objective. Parents will indicate fewer number of bullying incidents related to their child. Greater numbers of parents will indicate they feel their child is safe at school. A greater number of children will indicate that fewer children are being bullied on campus and be able to identify strategies that contributed to the decrease in such behaviors. Greater numbers of students will indicate feeling safe at school all the time. Staff will indicate less class time is being spent on peer conflicts that carry over from the playground. Teachers will indicate an increase in the time students are interacting positively on campus, particularly on the playground.

Student bystanders will demonstrate support for peers and will not tolerate inappropriate and hurtful behaviors without comments or intervention. Students will seek adult assistance when necessary.

School administration will analyze and compare pre and post data on referrals for playground incidents, nurse visits, and injury data. School administrators will track referrals and suspensions to identify severity of issue, quantity, and frequency. The number of school referrals to principal will decrease significantly.

VII. **Budget Summary:** Indicate anticipated expenses for onsite training, follow-up training, and program implementation. Include funds used for materials, supplies, and release time for teachers and supervisors.

Budget chart on next page.

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Optional

Peaceful Playgrounds Comprehensive Kit including curriculum, training materials, blueprints, certificates, stencils, playground equipment (balls, bean bags, etc.), paint machine, instructional games DVD's and more.	\$3999
Shipping and Tax	\$479.88
Peaceful Playgrounds Onsite Workshop	\$2000
Misc. supplies (brushes, paint etc.)	\$ 200
Total	\$6678.88