

FREE School Peer Mediation Programs Development Support School Year 2024-2025

About this Opportunity

NYSED is funding **free** peer mediation program technical assistance for schools without a peer mediation program and for those looking to expand or revitalize an existing program. Peer mediation programs have been shown to be:

- successful in improving school climate by teaching students to constructively deal with conflict;
- effective in reducing student-to-student conflict as well as suspensions and discipline referrals;
- supportive of Social Emotion Learning gains in areas such as anger management, problem solving, communication, empathy, and respect.

Technical assistance will be provided to schools selected through an application process. Selected schools will receive in-depth professional mediation training for two school staff members, a peer mediation training for students, and ongoing school year support to help schools with ongoing mediator training and case consultations for challenging situations.

Information Session

An optional, online information session will provide additional details about this opportunity and will provide time for participants to ask questions. Registration is required to receive the meeting link:

Time and Date: Wednesday, April 10 from 10:30-11:30 AM on Zoom.

Registration Required: Register for the Zoom link to the Information Session: [CLICK HERE](#)

How To Apply

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Applications Due Friday, April 26, 2024 by 5:00pm EST

TO APPLY: Apply by emailing peermediation@nycourts.gov with the subject line "Peer Mediation Training Application" and answer the following questions in the form of a letter signed by the School Building Principal and the School District Superintendent. Letters should answer all questions, and not exceed three pages.

1. Provide the following information: **School Name/Number, District, Grades,**
2. School Contact Person for this Project including phone and email contact information.
3. Please describe your school community. Please include demographic information, free/reduced lunch rates, attendance and discipline data.
4. Please explain why you feel Peer Mediation will benefit your school and what type of conflicts/situations you think will benefit from mediation.
5. Please tell us whether you have previously had a Peer Mediation program, and if so, when and how it worked. If it is not a current program, please explain what led to its discontinuation.
6. What other programs do you have in your school that may complement or compete with Peer Mediation? Please note any restorative practices your school implements.
7. What obstacles do you foresee in having a Peer Mediation program; how will you overcome them?
8. Identify the two proposed Peer Mediation Coordinators and explain why they will be effective in developing or expanding peer mediation in your school.
9. Anything else we should know?

For questions please email peermediation@nycourts.gov

About Peer Mediation

We learned how to listen and help our peers solve conflicts!

My attendance and grades are better!



I spend less time fighting and more time learning!

We gained leadership skills!

Peer Mediation Overview

- A. **GOALS:** Peer mediation provides a safe space for students to help their peers resolve conflicts through mediation. It also is a proven strategy to develop social emotional skills for students selected as peer mediators. Your local CDRC will work with your school to acquaint you with Peer Mediation and the methods of implementing a student Peer Mediation program so that you can develop a sustainable program for years to come.
- B. **SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION:**
 From our experience, is essential that school administrators provide leadership and active support to ensure the successful implementation of Peer Mediation within the school community. Successful administrators support the program by:
 1. Becoming familiar with Peer Mediation and its benefits.
 2. Recruiting and supporting interested staff and members of the school community to coordinate Peer Mediation program.
 3. Releasing staff and students to attend training.
 4. Allocating time in staff members' schedules for recruitment, training, mediation sessions, follow up, and evaluation of the program.
 5. Designating space for a Peer Mediation room. (This room should preferably be a quiet, private room where four students and one adult can conduct mediations.)
 6. Promoting and encouraging the use of Peer Mediation by staff and students.
- C. **STAFF COORDINATION SELECTION:** A team of at least two professional staff who volunteer, preferably with flexible schedules, will coordinate the Peer Mediation Program. They will be responsible for identifying and supervising student mediators, establishing a referral process and schedule, organizing and attending training sessions, compiling and submitting statistics, and publicizing the program in the school.
- D. **TRAINING & ON-SITE SUPPORT:** The two school Coordinators will attend a three-day professional mediation training in summer 2024. This is the same training that professional mediators in New York are required to take. After the training, your school will be assigned a local CDRC who will help you plan outreach, recruit students, deliver a student-centered mediation training, develop a referral process, provide skill-building sessions for students, and provide technical assistance on any issues that arise.

For questions please email peermediation@nycourts.gov