

## ABSTRACT

### CHARACTERISTICS OF BULLYING INTERVENTIONS AND EFFECTIVENESS OF A MIDDLE SCHOOL PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM

Bullying has become a topic of public concern and research around the world. This has led to different types of action to reduce the problem. Reviews of bullying interventions implemented in schools, as well as peer mediation programs, were examined to consider their characteristics and effectiveness. It was hypothesized that a peer mediation program at an urban middle school in the Central Valley of California would effectively increase students' reports of feeling safe at school and their knowledge of effective ways to solve conflicts at school. Results indicated that significant increases were not found in student reports of feeling safe at school or knowledge of effective ways to solve conflicts at school. Characteristics of an effective peer mediation program were discussed and explored as a possible solution.

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