



Peace4Kids Research

Summary 2008-2009

- Students in St. Louis permanently expelled from schools, were placed in a Re Entry Center where the Peace4Kids curriculum was taught to them four periods a day with academics in the afternoon. Significant improvements were made in attendance, academics and behavior which remained consistent one year later. 97 per cent of the students were able to re enter school.
- In Thompson Valley Schools in Loveland, Colorado, students were suspended into middle and high school academies. They received the Peace4Kids training two hours per day. Students significantly improved their attendance, behavior and academics after one semester of the program. Parents were also required to attend weekly meetings and significantly improved their family communication.
- An Elementary Counselor grant was received by the Denver Public Schools where six schools received Peace4Kids in pull out groups. These students significantly improved their reading scores and each of the schools reported a significant reductions in fighting and acting out behaviors.
- Woodbury Elementary School in Marshalltown, Iowa, was involved in a federal study to determine how effective Peace4Kids would be as a method to increase academic success and turn around disruptive behavior. This five year study found that by teaching three lessons per month per grade level and focusing on two character traits per month, there was a twenty per cent decrease in acting out behavior each year for five years and a consistent significant improvement in student academic behavior. As a result, the Iowa State research department has recommended that the Peace4Kids Model be considered as an exemplary model prevention program.
- Disruptive students in fifty Denver schools participated in one Peace4Kids lesson per week with the school psychologist for twelve weeks and were compared to fifty schools that did not have the program. The results were highly significant in terms of improved behavior and grades with no expulsions and long term suspensions.
- Dr. La Tessa, national director of Juvenile corrections, conducted a study with Jefferson Hills Correctional Facility in Denver, Colorado. These students received Peace4Kids/A.R.T. training one and one half hours per day with follow up activities conducted by the evening staff. Pre Post academic testing showed a significant gain at the .01 level of confidence and significant gains were made on several mental health indices such as oppositional defiance, lying, stealing measured by the "How I Think" questionnaire.

- Denver Public Schools' psychologist Debra Byrne recently published her 2008 doctoral dissertation that found that the Peace4Kids program that emphasized goal setting with students in DPS significantly improved their success in school measured by grades and tests.
- The Washington Institute of Public Policy examined all programs dealing with juvenile offenders and concluded that Aggression Replacement Training models are the best in helping juvenile offenders and youth corrections students achieve long-term behavioral success.