

# **Main Street Academix Respectful Schools Alliance 2008-2009**

## **What is the Respectful Schools Alliance (RSA)?**

The RSA was born out of the school climate improvement work of Main Street Academix over the past 10 years with schools in New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, New York, Tennessee, and Florida. The RSA will bring together educators and student leaders from across the county as part of a powerful learning community. Working with national experts, other dedicated K-12 teachers and school leaders, members of the Alliance will receive high quality professional development, student leadership training, and learn how to implement the SafeMeasures™ Collaborative Action Research Process to improve school climate, safety, respect, and learning.

As members of the RSA, educators and their students will have opportunities to develop effective leadership skills and to take on active civic roles in their school and communities. In addition, teachers and principals can earn graduate credit or CEU's while working to improve their schools. Being part of the RSA will be exciting, challenging, rewarding, and fun!

## **Why join the RSA?**

Our partner schools from Maine to Florida have successfully used SafeMeasures™ to change the social and learning climate in their schools. Student and teacher leaders are stepping forward and making a real difference in the lives of students and in the work of their schools.

After doing two feature stories on the work of Central High School students and teachers in Sullivan County TN, Selena Wiles, News Anchorwoman for WJHL in Johnson County, TN said, "It was so exciting watching these diverse students having real, open conversations with their teachers about their schools' climate using their data. I have never seen anything like this program before and I have been covering schools for many years as a reporter." We know the program really works too.

In Alliance schools levels of civic engagement and youth leadership increase dramatically. Principals are building more respectful schools and seeing students and teachers working together to stop bullying, harassment, and school violence. Teachers in Alliance schools are reflecting on the meaning of "respectful teaching" and adopting pedagogies that dramatically change the learning environment. Superintendents are seeing significant improvement in school climate, dropout reduction, and, on average, an 11% increase in academic performance in schools that make these improvements in school climate. Contact Dr. William Preble at [wpreble@msanh.com](mailto:wpreble@msanh.com) to learn more about these effects.

## **How Can My Teachers, Superintendent, Principals Learn More About the RSA?**

The RSA periodically offers free webinars to help schools explore the impact of school climate on students and learning and strategies for improving school climate. These webinar include details of how administrators and teachers can participate in a two-day summer institute to learn even more about the benefits of joining the Alliance. Please check on the Main Street Academix website for details about upcoming webinars.

### **What Steps does a RSA School or District Take to Build Respectful Schools?**

- 1.) Choose either the RSA On-Site Program (trainings and group meetings take place in your school/district with RSA facilitators) or On-Line Program (trainings and group meetings take place on-line with an RSA facilitator).
- 2.) Select a School Leadership Team composed of a Principal and four teachers or staff members
- 3.) Participate in a RSA Regional or On-Line Summer Institute (Contact Main Street Academix at 603-428-8706 for more information about Summer Institutes)
- 4.) Participate in RSA trainings and support activities including, e-workshops, Bi-Monthly Webinars and Student Leadership Summits.
- 5.) Work with your RSA facilitator to implement the SafeMeasures™ Collaborative Action Research Process:
  - Stage One: Student Leader Selection and Data Collection (Fall/Winter)
  - Stage Two: Data Analysis & Goal Setting (Winter)
  - Stage Three: Action Planning & Project Development (Winter/Spring)
  - Stage Four: Implementation and Evaluation (Spring)

### **How can my school or district sign up?**

To register for a Free Informational Webinar, any of our Summer Institutes, or to join The Respectful Schools Alliance, please call Main Street Academix at 603-428-8706 or e-mail [katie@msanh.com](mailto:katie@msanh.com) and ask for an application and contract.

We look forward to seeing you at one of the Summer Institutes, speaking via e-mail or phone, and especially to working with you, your students and colleagues.

## What Are The Costs?

The RSA does everything it can to make its services comprehensive, sustainable, and affordable. This year we are adding a wide variety of online services that will reduce costs and increase communication and access to services, tools, and materials for our members. In 2008-2009 we will offer two types of School Climate Improvement Programs; our traditional "On-Site Program" and our new "On-Line Program." The on-line program will allow us to broaden our reach across the country and lower the costs to schools.

The table below will allow you compute the cost of either one of these programs for your school, district, region or state. Schools in the same community, district, region or state can join the RSA as a group for a reduced cost per school.

