

“Amigos in Mediation” Peer Mediation Training Program

“Amigos in Mediation” (AIM) is the groundbreaking Peer Mediation Program administered by the Bexar County Dispute Resolution Center, which is transforming our schools by creating a culture of peaceful dispute resolution. Since 1999, the AIM Program has been assisting schools to establish self-sustaining peer mediation programs which enable students to resolve their own conflicts without the intervention of school staff through the use of students trained as peer mediators. AIM provides peer mediation training and consultation services to elementary, middle and high schools within all 15 school districts in Bexar County. Participating schools are encouraged to select students to be trained as mediators from a broad, cross-section of the student population in order to assure representation across gender, ethnic and economic sectors of the school population spectrum.

“Amigos in Mediation” Cumulative Report for 1999 through 2006

122	Schools with Active Peer Mediation Programs
563	Peer Mediation Training Sessions Conducted
10,723	Students Trained as Peer Mediators
1,607	School Personnel Trained as Peer Mediation Trainers
7,967	Student Mediations Conducted
7,696	Student Mediations Resulting in Agreements
96%	Peer Mediation Agreement Rate
17,061	Student Disputants Participating in Mediation

Of the students using mediation to resolve their disputes, 87% stated that mediation prevented them from engaging in inappropriate action and 94% of those same students stated they would use mediation again to resolve future disputes. Of the schools reporting, 81% stated that having a peer mediation program reduced the number of disciplinary incidents and the amount of time staff spent on disciplinary actions.