

West County Psychological Associates

West County Psychological Associates is a group of mental health professionals and educators who are concerned with the issues facing schools in today's environment. We provide a variety of consultative services including:

- Faculty and Parent Training
- Teacher and Administrative Consultation
- Care Team Training and Consultation
- Tailored Workshops and Seminars
- Psychoeducational and Psychological Assessment
- Social Skills Training
- Substance Abuse Evaluation and Treatment
- School Climate Change

For more information about these or other services please contact us at (314) 275-8599.

West County Psychological Associates

*Changing
School Climate*

Promoting
Personal Safety,
Civility and
Respect

Changing School Climate

There exist four primary domains of abuse

- Physical/Sexual
- Harassment/Bullying
- Emotional/Neglect
- Drug/Alcohol

Changing school climate has a significantly positive effect on all of these domains. Common elements across these domains are:

- Establishing common core values of the school and the promotion of these values
- Helping students develop intrinsic motivation
- Requiring moral leadership from the administrator, faculty, students and parents
- Addressing intellectual, emotional, spiritual and behavioral components
- Promoting proactive approaches rather than reactive ones

Changing school climate promotes academic achievement, caring communities, emotionally safe environments, responsibility and respect.

A Model for Change

A change in school climate is created by those important components of the system: Pastor, administrator, faculty, parents and students. All members must be invested in the change process for the program to be successful. This process must also be congruent with the schools mission statement.

A comprehensive approach to changing climates includes:

- Identifying behaviors/values that will represent the school
- Creating an action plan that is congruent with school policies
- Constant monitoring of the system to ensure that all are reflecting the desired behaviors
- Periodic reassessment

It is important that all members of the school community model these values. Administrators must be the leaders of such a program and must provide guidance and support.

A consultant from West County Psychological Associates will meet with the leadership team to assess the existing program. This process is not intended to supplant existing programs but to build on them with recommendation

leading to the creation of a school climate which embodies the core values that are reflective of your mission statement. Recommendation might include additional program components that will ensure climate change.

Teacher training is an important component of this program. Teachers must create classrooms that reflect the core values of the system.

Parents require grade specific education in the areas of: the four domains of abuse, boundaries, limit setting, relationship building, effective communication and modeling expected behavior to children.

For more information on this program or any other questions please feel free to contact West County Psychological Associates. We would also like to invite you to visit our website at: www.wcpastl.com there you will find information about WCPA as well as additional tools and resources.

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