LAUNCHING POLICY TO PROTECT STUDENTS FROM BULLYING IN AN URBAN POPULATION

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INTRODUCTION: UNTIL 2007, NUMEROUS STUDENTS WERE GETTING HURT IN THE JERSEY CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT (42 SCHOOLS, POPULATION 30,000 STUDENTS). THERE WAS NO ANTI-BULLYING POLICY. BULLYING IS ONE-SIDED AGGRESSION. IN SAMPLE SCHOOL PS#24 (900 STUDENTS), THERE WERE 1,200 INCIDENTS PER SCHOOL YEAR.

A. DEFINE
PROBLEM: WOULD PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT HELP PROTECT STUDENTS FROM BULLYING?
GOAL: TO REDUCE BULLYING TO ZERO IN 2019
METHOD: PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

B. MEASURE
1,200 STUDENTS BEING BULLIED IN PS#24 UNTIL 2007

C. ANALYZE
1. NO PARENT AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP
2. NO AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
3. LOW SELF-ESTEEM
4. NO TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITIES
5. NO FUNDING FOR PARENT-LED ACTIVITIES
6. NO COLLABORATION
7. NO COMMUNICATION
8. NO ANONYMOUS MEANS TO REPORT
9. NO RECOGNITION FOR EXCELLENCE
10. NO RULES AGAINST BULLYING

D. IMPROVE
1. STRONG PARENT AND STUDENT COUNCILS
2. ACADEMIC AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS
3. NON-PUNITIVE APPROACH TO BUILD SELF-ESTEEM
4. FUN ACTIVITIES
5. FUNDRAISERS
6. COLLABORATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS
7. CONSISTENT COMMUNICATION
8. ANONYMOUS REPORTING BOX
9. AWARDS

E. CONTROL

SUMMARY/CONCLUSION: PARENTAL COLLABORATION WITH SCHOOL PERSONNEL AND ORGANIZATIONS CONTRIBUTED TO THE LAUNCH OF ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN AND POLICY. IN SAMPLE SCHOOL, THERE WAS 99.5% DECREASE IN INCIDENTS. THEREFORE, PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT HELPED PROTECT STUDENTS FROM BULLYING.

MEMBERS OF THE TEAM: MR. EDWIN RIVERA, THEN-PRINCIPAL OF PS#24; MR FRAKLIN WALKER, SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS; MRS. PAULA CHRISTEN, ANTI-BULLYING COORDINATOR.
SPECIAL THANKS TO DR. PATRICIA JOFFE, MENTOR AND KAPPA ETA CHAPTER ADVISOR.