



NICE TOUCHPOINTS

AWARENESS

NICE staff members observe classroom dynamics for a week in order to identify classroom and student personal issues, needs, and course of action.

RESEARCH

NICE staff members present their observation findings to the teacher and work with the teacher to develop the appropriate topics, discussions, and classroom activities for the community circles, mediations, conflict resolution methods, one-on-one counseling, and other necessary social and emotional support techniques.

ACTIVITIES

NICE staff members facilitate mediations, community-building circles, and counseling sessions to support student's social-emotional and academic growth.

FEEDBACK

As a result of NICE program activities, students create an inclusive and welcoming environment for all students, increase academic outcomes, and increase the skills necessary to help students manage their emotions, work with others, and set goals for success.

STUDENT GOALS

Awareness

- Decrease in student disciplinary referrals
- Increase in student academic achievement
- Increase in student's self-efficacy, social-emotional skills
- Decrease of reports of incidents of violence

Research

- Currently conducted by Columbia University: Deepen the understanding of dynamics addressed by the NICE Program, including student suspension, office referrals, attendance issues, behavioral disturbances, behavior management challenges, conflict, and students' social-emotional needs, in addition to potential underlying factors that may be contributing to these issues.
- Learn more about the environment in each school and how the school community is perceived by its members.
- Continue to evaluate the work of the NICE Program, its impact thus far, its strengths and its areas for improvement, and assets and challenges to its effectiveness in each school.
- Quantify the successes of the program and create a replicable model to be implemented into other schools.

Activities

- Games, discussion topics, and other group projects developed by staff to provide guidance for addressing social and emotional issues amongst students.
- The main activities of the project will be conducted during lunchtime, after-school, and during class for both newly-arrived students and their classmates.
- Students will engage in community-building circles that address topics like friendship, family, personal accomplishments, bullying, relationships, advice on conflict-resolution, global issues, cultural differences, death, violence and other related topics.
- Participate in community circles to help foster self-esteem, maintain authentic connections with peers, counteract self-doubt, and allow for genuine self-expression.
- We plan to incorporate arts and technology in both groups to enhance well-being and healing from experiences of sexism, racism, xenophobia, homophobia and bias towards newly-arrived and foreign-speaking students. This will also include exploring the ways in which internalized oppression and colonialism has affected the relationship between newly arrived immigrant students and second-generation immigrant students.

Collecting Feedback

- Monthly reports from NICE staff members.
- Tracking student progress academically and emotionally.
- Tracking student involvement

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

Awareness

- Success in Student Development: every student will demonstrate social, emotional, and academic readiness to meet or exceed grade level standards.
- Healthy, Safe, Supported, Engaged, and Challenged: Every student will be challenged in a safe learning environment to be a productive and engaged citizen capable of meeting high expectations.
- Motivated, Confident, Empowered Critical Thinkers: Every student will demonstrate ownership of his/her education and be fully engaged in becoming critical, creative-thinking goal-setters.

Research

Voluntary participation in focus groups and surveys to determine the effectiveness of the NICE program.

Activities

- Maximize students' ability to express complex ideas and emotions, teach students to separate difference of opinion from personal attack; help them learn to express themselves while maintaining respect for others, and minimizing defensiveness among peers.
- Through the use of interactive exercises, we create cooperative learning, where students work together for a purpose, fostering interdependence among students, collective problem solving, and shared goals.
- Increase positive effects on student learning by catering to different learning styles and preparing students for personal and professional success.
- Affirmation to validate each individual's contribution and highlight strengths and commonalities.
- Improve their de-escalating skills to conflict by looking at others' points of view, and developing win-win/fair-fair solutions.
- Bias awareness activities create a safe environment in which participants explore and celebrate their cultures; examine personal, cultural, and institutional forms of bias; and develop strategies to effectively respond to bias.
- Help develop self-control in emotionally charged situation
- Creative responses to bullying that take into account the needs of bullies, those they bully, and bystanders, including power imbalance and bias.
- Empowering students to take ownership helps them to take ownership throughout the school community (and beyond)
- Use circles for clarifying values, creating community agreements, exploring concerns and even test anxiety.

Collecting Feedback

Student and staff surveys

PROCESS

Awareness

- NICE staff members are invited by teachers into their classrooms to facilitate community-building circles to support student's social-emotional and academic growth.
- NICE staff members conduct mediations and council individual students as needed.

Research

- Conduct several focus groups with students.
- Three focus groups conducted during the lunch period.
- Three focus groups are conducted during class.* Student participation is voluntary, and students who participated in focus groups held during class time do so with the permission of their teachers.

Collecting Feedback

- NICE staff members will keep track of student participation, student academic progress since participating in NICE program activities, number of reports of disruptive behavior, acts of violence or bullying amongst students who participate in the NICE program in comparison to students who do not.
- Student and school staffs satisfaction survey.



*This program will not be active during the summer.

Monthly, quarterly and yearly feedback on progress of program from NICE staff will be submitted.