

What Kinds of Conflicts can be Mediated?



- Teasing
- Disagreements
- Name-calling
- Rumors
- Relationships
- Misunderstandings
- And More...

Why Participate in Mediation?

It's Confidential

Peer Mediators Don't Take Sides

You Can Tell Your Side of the Story

You Can Solve Your Problem Peacefully

You Decide the Outcome



FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS Department of Special Services

For more information on peer mediation in your school contact:

"It is an outstanding program. The peer mediators have done an outstanding job. Conflicts are almost always resolved permanently when students have gone through peer mediation. They learn skills that carry over to other situations."

Administrator
Halley Elementary School

"Peer mediation has had a great influence on my life. It has made me more open minded and understanding, and changed the way I view life and others."

Student
Annandale High School



Distributed by Student Safety and Wellness Office
Office of Intervention and Prevention Services
571-423-4270

PATHWAYS TO PEACE

Peer Mediation



In Peer Mediation no problem is too big to solve!

Student
Hayfield Secondary School

FAIRFAX COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

What is Peer Mediation?

Peer mediation is a confidential process for resolving conflicts. Participants have the opportunity to talk through their conflicts with the help of trained student mediators.



Peer mediators do not take sides or place blame. They listen to each person and help that person develop his or her own solution to the conflict.

When is the Best Time to Try Mediation?

Now! If you are feeling frustrated or angry with someone, but have not approached him/her about your feelings, mediation can help. If you have already been in several fights with a person, mediation can help clear the air. Participating in mediation gives you the opportunity to confront a person you are in conflict with in a nonviolent way.

Who Can Request a Mediation?

Students, teachers, administrators, and parents can request mediation to help students resolve conflicts.

How Does Mediation Work?

There are five steps to the mediation process.

1. INTRODUCTION AND GROUND RULES

Peer mediators and participants are introduced. They agree on ground rules.

2. STORYTELLING

All participants share their side of the story without interruption. Peer mediators actively listen and help each participant feel understood.

3. IDENTIFYING ISSUES AND NEEDS

Participants examine and define their own issues and needs.

4. FINDING SOLUTIONS

Participants create their own solutions to resolve the conflict.

5. FINAL AGREEMENT

Peer mediators write solutions into an agreement that each participant signs.

What are the Ground Rules?

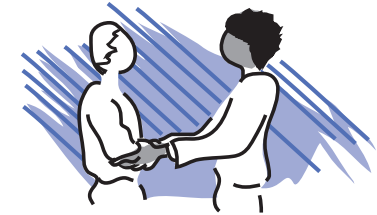
- Do not interrupt
- No name-calling or put downs
- Be honest
- Agree to work toward solving the problem

Who are the Peer Mediators?

Peer mediators are students who are committed to making their school a peaceful place to learn. Mediators come from diverse backgrounds and represent a variety of experiences. Before they can mediate, they receive intensive training in communication, problem solving, conflict resolution, and mediation skills.

Interested in Becoming a Peer Mediator?

Most schools in Fairfax County have peer mediation classes or clubs. If you are interested in becoming a peer mediator or taking a peer mediation class, talk to your school counselor.



What About Confidentiality?

Peer mediators and participants are required to keep all information shared in the mediation confidential. That means peer mediators and participants agree not to discuss any part of the mediation outside the mediation room. However, when there is mention of drugs, weapons, or abuse, peer mediators must report that information to an adult.