



**The TEACHER CENTER of Broome County**  
**Teacher Study Group Grant Award**  
**2003-2004**

**FINAL REPORT**  
**DOCUMENT PROCESSES AND OUTCOMES**

**STUDY GROUP TOPIC:** To Limit or stop bullying in our schools through in- school and out- of- school involvement. \_\_\_\_\_

**GROUP MEMBERS:** Kevin Howell, Jessica Monahan, Bob Crissman, (Lynne Hunkovi and Michelle Bartholomew- volunteered their time.

**The final report must be word-processed and submitted both in print and on disk using this form. Include information under each of the following headings.**

**Describe the initial goal of the group noting any adjustments that had to be made as time passed.**

In the beginning, our main focus was on community involvement with parent involvement as the main concern. The conversation quickly shifted to have more teacher involvement. The thought was that the more the students saw the teachers at their sporting events, chorus concerts, or any other school activities, the better they would feel about themselves and their school community as a whole.

**Describe the ACTION PLAN that the group followed.**

In this action plan, we will implement the following:

1. We will distribute a copy of student events for all teachers to have.
2. We will have a committee to organize the teachers to attend these events.
3. Hopefully, each teacher will be able to attend at least one event per month.
4. We will plan a sporting event/tournament where each team will be comprised of two students and two teachers.
5. We will take more of an active role working with our Media Liaison. Let the public and teachers in the buildings know what is going on.
6. The Heritage Paper, we will be more vigilant about posting more student events and award recognitions in it.
7. We will try to have more involvement with the PSTA. We will look to help them and be helped by them- resources.
8. We will sponsor a t-shirt drive with EMS pride. The students will make the designs with the help of the art teachers. The cooler the design, the more t-shirts will be sold and worn.
9. We as teachers will wear school pride shirts on casual Fridays. The students will be

invited to do this as well.

10. A multicultural club would be great to start. The students from all walks of life could learn about each other and lessen bullying by decreasing miscommunications and diversity differences.

**Describe how the action plan was implemented.**

We will have a committee that will spearhead all of the elements of the action plan.

**How has participating in this study group changed you as a teacher? Have any of your teaching practices changed?**

We worked well together and were able to take a broad topic and narrow into something that could be feasibly handled. It has widened our view on how other teachers felt about the current situation in our schools. We were able to see from others' vantage points. Mr. Crissman, the band teacher, has some great ideas and proud his passion for band involvement and community support to the table. Michelle Bartholomew, a former teacher from UE, had ideas that her school used for community spirit and how she viewed its positive and negative effects. Lynne Hunkovic and Jessica Monahan have been teaching at EMS and their experience, their ability to articulate the past and the present was very enlightening. Overall, it was a great learning experience not only what we can do for our school, but I learned a lot (we learned a lot) about each other. In a large school district, sometimes teachers do not know each other well and this can lead to separation of staff. We need to have teachers involved with each other and the school community as a whole. The students will benefit from the self-esteem boost and in turn the school should be a happier place for all involved.

**What evidence is there that student achievement is improving as a result of participating in this study group? What kind of differences are you observing in your students?**

Although we have not implemented this plan yet, some teachers and I went to a few football games this year for some of our more- than- energetic students. The boys noticed and this made a big difference in their school behavior and school grades as well.

**What evidence is there that the goals of the study group have/have not been met?**

We will implement this over the coming school year.

**Comment on the value of the study group process? Did it work for you?**

I was the leader of the group and it went relatively well. The only thing I could have done better: I got a movie from BOCES on diversity and schools and it was about a white bread school in Colorado; its context was nothing like our present school situation. Yes, overall it did work.

**How can we make the study group program better?**

I realize that time was an issue with the teacher center, but more time would have been beneficial. I am very happy for the time we had, but maybe next summer we can continue with this topic. I would like to do a report on the outcomes of our school spirit action plan.