



Community
Matters

Empowering Youth
Transforming Communities

Who we are: Community Matters is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit founded in 1996 and headquartered in Sonoma County, California. The organization is recognized as a national leader in school safety efforts, school climate improvement and bullying and violence prevention. Community Matters provides programs and services for educational, youth-serving and governmental entities. During the past two decades, the organization has worked with more than 2,000 schools, agencies and organizations across 32 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Canada. Our work has been featured in numerous media outlets, and we have presented to audiences at the local, state, regional and national levels.

Our mission: "To collaborate with schools and communities in creating safe and inclusive environments where all youth and adults thrive."

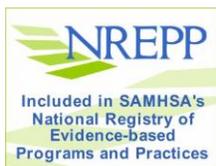
Our central beliefs and expertise are expressed through our **Whole School Climate Framework**. The Framework provides educational leaders with an easy to understand, cost-effective and comprehensive blueprint for accomplishing the outcomes that schools are mandated to achieve. The Framework supports leaders in prioritizing, organizing, coordinating, and reporting on their efforts in an integrated and systemic way. Within this framework, we provide programs and services that address positive school climate via five primary areas: students, staff, organization, families and community.

Services we offer:

- Consulting
- Strategic planning
- Presentations
- Trainings
- Programs that address school safety/school climate, bullying and cyber-bullying



Results: Community Matters programs are effective. Schools that have implemented our programs report having a safer school with fewer suspensions, increased attendance and improved academic achievement, including fewer alternative education placements. Schools also see reductions in the costs and losses in both time and money related to suspensions.



Our flagship program Safe School Ambassadors® is included in SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. The Safe School Ambassadors program engages the socially influential leaders of a school's diverse cliques, and equips them with effective non-violent communication and intervention skills they can use with their peers to prevent, stop and report bullying, cyber-bullying and harassment.

About our founder: Rick Phillips is the Executive Director and founder of Community Matters. The lead author of *Safe School Ambassadors: Harnessing Student Power to Stop Bullying and Violence*, published by Jossey-Bass/Wiley (April, 2008), Rick has been interviewed on The Today Show, CNN, and many print, radio, and regional/national interview shows as an expert on violence prevention, school climate transformation and empowering youth. Rick is also the author of "Ten Years after Columbine: School Violence-Prevention Report Card". He has been recognized as a James Irvine Foundation Leadership Award Winner, as a Guest Speaker at The Clinton School of Public Service and as the Huffington Post's Person of the Day.

Our vision for the future: Imagine...schools and communities where young people are valued as contributors and not just consumers, where they acquire the skills to be leaders, change agents and peace-makers. Envision a future where our children become the catalysts for positive change; equipped and empowered to problem solve, speak up on behalf of others and prosper in a diverse, multi-cultural world.