



Topic: Whole School Conflict Management Programs

Presenters: Jennifer Combs Batton, M.A.

Jennifer Batton, M.A. is the director of Global Issues Resource Center at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio, USA where she coordinates the college's certificate program in Conflict Resolution and Peace Studies, coordinated an on-line national How to Manual for Community Colleges Developing Peace and Conflict Studies Programs with the United States Institute of Peace, and coordinated the development of a study abroad program in Peace and Conflict Studies in Costa Rica through Community Colleges for International Development (CCID). Batton is the former director of education programs for the state government office, the Ohio Commission on Dispute Resolution and Conflict Management in Columbus, Ohio, USA (1998 – 2006). As the Education Director, she was responsible for strategic planning to meet the needs of all of Ohio's schools (approximately 3,500) and universities (approximately 52 teacher training colleges) including coordinating and designing state-wide conflict resolution education (CRE) programming by providing grants, training, technical assistance, evaluation, and resource development in partnership with other state government, and state-wide youth serving agencies. Before coming to the state she was the Director of the Status Offender Mediation Program for the Butler County Juvenile Courts.

Batton has worked on a number of national initiatives funded by the United States Department of Education and international initiatives including providing leadership for The Organization of American States (OAS) Advisory Board for the Inter-American Program on Education for Democratic Values and Practices (www.oas.org), and serving as the Co-chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Conflict and Peace Education Reference Group (www.gppac.net). Batton provided training, presentations, and consultation for teachers, policy makers, and youth serving professionals on the topic of CRE in countries including Australia, Belize, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Guatemala, Netherlands, Northern Ireland, St. Lucia, St. Vincent, Serbia, Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and Ukraine. Batton has a B.A. in Political Science from Miami University, and an M.A. in Conflict Resolution from Antioch University. She has completed additional coursework towards a Ph.D. in Conflict Management through Nova Southeastern University.

The Idea

This webinar on “ Whole School Conflict Management Programs” will provide educators with tools and strategies that help create a school environment that fosters prevention and de-escalation of conflicts and establishes procedures for the effective, nonviolent resolution of conflicts that occur in school settings. To be effective, a comprehensive program must address more than student conduct. Conflict Management attitudes and skills must also be an integral part of school curriculum and instruction, as well as the total school culture. This workshop will provide a detailed overview of the four basic conflict management models used in schools including:

- Curriculum integration
- Peer Mediation
- Conflict Management as a Classroom Management Tool



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- Comprehensive School Conflict Management Program

Examples of best practices will be shared, along with the resources needed, and implementation strategies based on best practice. Linkages to current state-wide prevention efforts will also be made. Free resources for primary and secondary classrooms will be shared as well as links to free on-line learning modules that educators can utilize in their teacher training for new or current educators.

Why It Matters

Conflict Management has proven effective in reducing negative behavior, improving classroom climate, enhancing students' social and emotional competencies, and providing students with critical skills for cooperatively managing conflicts with peers and adults. There is strong evidence providing the link between comprehensive conflict management efforts and academic achievement. For more information on the results of integrating these skill sets into the curriculum for students, please visit <http://www.creeducation.org/cre/researchers>

What We Know

Throughout the hemisphere, the skills and concepts of conflict management are being integrated into the curriculum and whole-school programming through national efforts in the areas of democracy education, citizenship education and/or peace education. Specific training in conflict management in the Caribbean has been undertaken since 2009 under the leadership of the Ministry of Education of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Local Government, with financial assistance from the Organization of American States. These efforts continue through the development of five learning modules on these topics including: Conflict Management, Bullying Prevention, Peer Mediation, Effective Classroom Management, and Whole School Conflict Management Programs through the Organization of American States and the Inter-American Teacher Education Network.

- **Trinidad and Tobago (2009)** The Ministry of Education and Ministry of Local Government partnered to provide training in CRE to assist in building the country's capacity for developing and strengthening a culture of democracy among youth in Trinidad. Project funded through the Organization of American States Horizontal Cooperation Fund.
 - **Three Countries in the Caribbean (2010 - 2011)** Training in CRE was provided for educators, NGOs, and government officials from three countries in the Caribbean (Trinidad and Tobago, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent) for the project, "An Inter-Sectoral Approach to Fostering a Democratic Culture in Schools and Local Communities in Countries of the Caribbean". This builds on earlier work for the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Education in Trinidad and Tobago. Funding provided by the Organization of American States.
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American States



Agenda

11.30am- 11.40am	Technical testing (settings, and hardware tests).
11.40am-12.20pm	Presentation: Whole School Conflict Management Programs Learning into the Curriculum.
12.20pm-12.30 pm	Q & A /discussion.

Time Expressed in Local Time of Washington, DC UTC/GMT - 4h (Eastern Daylight Time)
