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Conflict Resolution Position

Conflict Resolution beliefs are something that every teacher must decide upon before they start their career. I started college with an idea of how teachers handled situations in the classroom from my own experiences as a student. Now that I'm about to enter the educational workforce, I can now utilize those experiences to better my teaching for the benefit of my students.

I have learned how to become the most effective teacher by embracing my student's differences and creating an encouraging environment. If my students can come to school and feel safe and encouraged, then I believe they will become more confident in themselves and their ability to succeed. I have discussed with my peers about how to develop the best learning atmosphere for our future students, including preventing bullying, incorporating problem-solving strategies, and identifying the different conflict resolution management styles of both our future students and ourselves.

One of the assignments/activities my conflict resolution class did was view a movie about bullying in schools today. A lot of what I saw I could relate back to my own schooling and what I witnessed among my childhood friends. The class had an intense discussion on the various ways students can be and are being bullied and the best practices to prevent it. I believe one of the best things a teacher can do for their students is address the issue of bullying before it even begins and recognize the need

to put a stop to it. I created a lesson that I could utilize in my classroom each year to encourage peer mentors, nonviolence, and the common knowledge that everybody has feelings that they might not understand. The lesson should invite the students to make connections and realize that both the victim and the bully(ies) suffer from conflict and instead of indifference and anger towards others it would be best to express those feelings in healthier more reasonable ways.

Throughout my own experiences I noticed there were ways to work through conflict without outside help; however, more times than not an adult or mediator was needed. I now know that if a teacher walks through how to solve conflicts with the class early and reinforces the practice, students will begin to use the process to solve their own problems. Most teachers post reflection questions or different steps to take when students find themselves involved in a conflict. The students are able to use the posters to solve the problem before it gets out of hand, and boosts their sense of independence. Teachers can even appoint a class mediator(s) to step in for the teacher when they are not present in cases such as at recess. Not just anybody can be a class mediator; I believe it would be best if the mediator job was chosen through an interview session. The student would need to have strong social and mediation skills for this job to be effective.

Peer mediators can easily be identified through a conflict resolution management style test. Each person has a variety of strengths and weaknesses in conflict resolution. My class participated in this test cause not only is it important to know the students conflict resolution management styles but it is key for the teacher to know their own. I found out that I have a mediator/compromise strength followed closely by avoidance.

My mediator strength allows me to see both sides of the problem and come to a common solution. Students with this same strength would be great candidates for a peer mediator. The other styles of conflict resolution management that the students could inhabit would include avoidance, accommodating, and aggressive.

Conflict Resolution is a key component to managing a successful classroom and providing students with the tools for success. Conflict has been a common problem in and out of the school environment and it just continues to grow more violent. It is the teacher, the parents, and other members of the community's job to put the students first and help them overcome the conflicts that arise in their everyday lives.