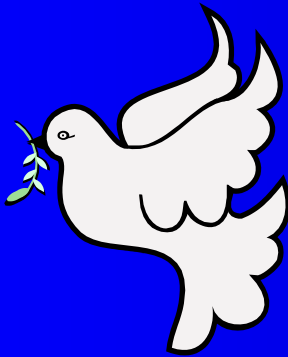






# PEER MEDIATION

Win-Win Problem Solving  
For Students and Adults



# BENEFITS OF PEER MEDIATION

- Decreases number of discipline problems
- Reduces time spent on discipline
- Gives more time for teaching.
- Increased attendance due to decreased suspensions
- Builds self-esteem
- Builds skills for positive problem-solving
- Teaches positive communication
- Builds responsible, productive citizens
- Builds integrity and mutual respect



# HOW PEER MEDIATION WORKS



- Peer mediation teaches students to solve their problems without fighting.
- 20-25 students from each school level are trained to be mediators and mediate disputes between fellow students.
- Mediators allow parties to vent anger.
- Mediators ask questions about the situation.
- Mediators identify issues and feelings.

# HOW PEER MEDIATION WORKS

- Mediators facilitate discussion with disputants regarding solutions.
- Disputants reach a mutual agreement.
- Mediators put student agreements in writing.
- Disputants sign the agreement.
- Most mediated disputes are settled.



# RULES FOR FAIR FIGHTING

- No name-calling or put-downs.
- Do not interrupt when someone else is talking.
- Only one person speaks at a time.
- Be as honest as you can
- Everything discussed will be kept confidential.....except drugs, alcohol, weapons on school property and abuse.



# COMMON CAUSES OF CONFLICT

- Name-calling
- Put-downs
- Rumors
- Picking or aggravating
- Making disparaging remarks about family members
- Boyfriend-girlfriend problems
- Accusations



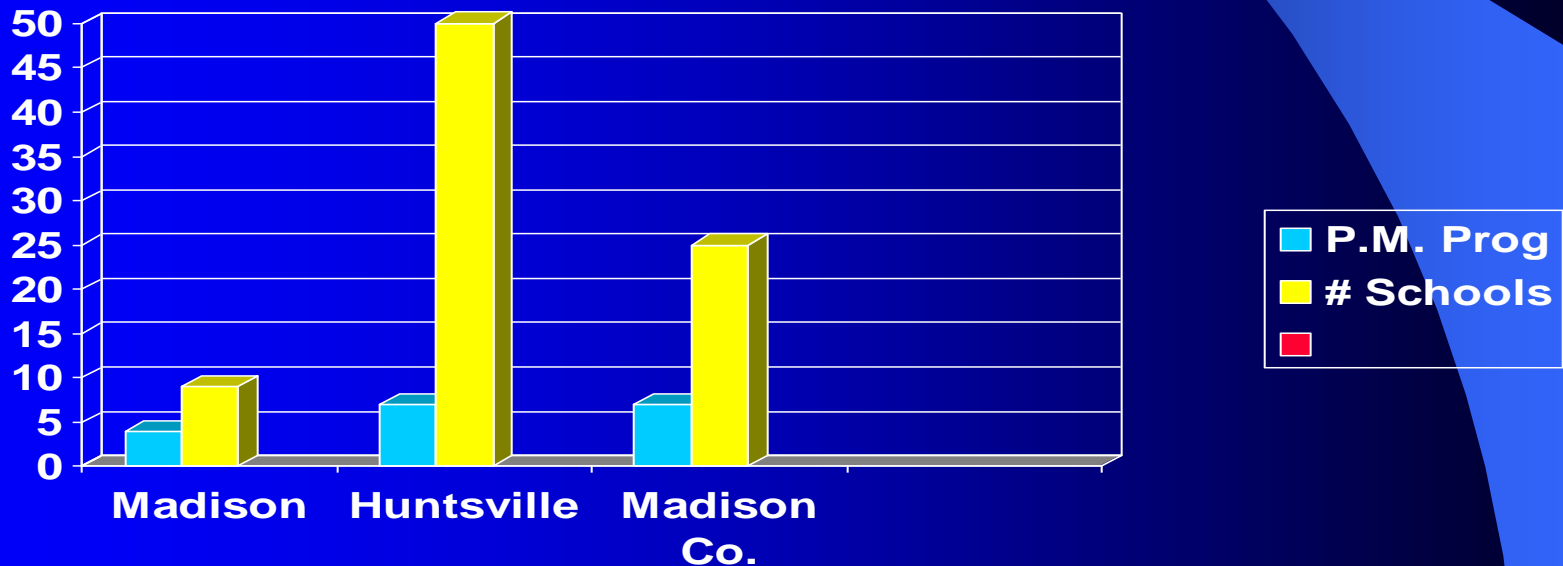


# SUMMARY:

- Schools need peer mediation programs.
- Why? ..because conflict is a normal part of life.
- Proper conflict management skills aren't taught in most schools.
- Productive conflict management is essential for success.
- Violence among youth is increasing.
- Today's youth are tomorrow's leaders.

# PEER MEDIATION PROGRAMS IN MADISON COUNTY SCHOOLS

- Madison City 4
- Madison County 7
- Huntsville City 7



# PEER MEDIATION PROGRAM STATISTICS

- Decrease: Fights \*Referrals Suspensions

● Meek Elementary	6%	32%	67%
● Winfield Middle	20%	10%	30%
● Madison Co. Mid.	18%	5%	0
● Ed White Middle	10%	47%	20%
● Ohatchee High	40%	40%	40%

- Other schools reporting had successful mediation programs but did not have the figures to report percentages.

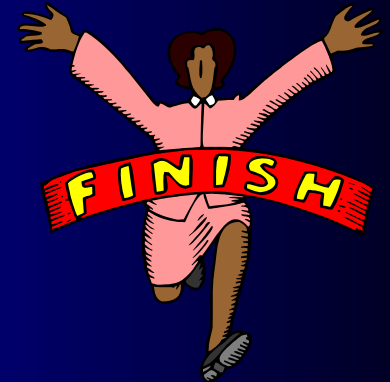
- \*Office referrals for discipline problems.

# COMMON OBJECTIONS TO ADDING PEER MEDIATION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS.



- Funding
- Resistance to adding another program and/or responsibility
- Idea that only schools with great discipline problems need peer mediation
- Perception that peer helping programs are the same as peer mediation

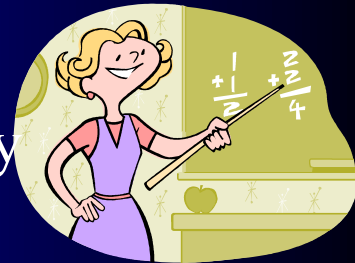
# SOLUTIONS:



- Find funding.
- Peer mediation programs require very little teacher time for coordination.
- All schools need peer mediation programs to teach students anger management, positive communication and self-control.
- Peer mediation is a type of peer helping program but its focus is teaching peaceful conflict resolution skills.

# TEACHER QUOTES

“I absolutely LOVE this program & would HIGHLY recommend it to other schools!”....Melissa Butler, Liberty Middle School, Madison, AL.



“I highly recommend this program. It does work!”....Jennifer S. Roach, Morris Avenue Intermediate School, Opelika, AL.

“This is a great program.”....Michael Laney, Ohatchee High School, Ohatchee, AL.

“I believe peer mediation is excellent training for middle school students. They learn to resolve problems by talking rather than fighting. It is excellent leadership and life skills training.”.... Martha McInnish, Riverton Middle School, Huntsville, AL.