



GROUP i&i

THE LATEST

September 24, 2015

Group i&i Selected to Evaluate Schools' Peace Model Project

Group i&i was recently selected to conduct the external evaluation for the Peace Model Project, a school culture initiative being implemented at the four elementary schools in the Caldwell-West Caldwell School District in New Jersey. The School District and long-time partner The Bridge, a local youth and family counseling agency, received a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education to address three key needs:

1. Helping students to develop stress reduction, coping and self-regulation skills.
2. Improving the overall climate by reducing extreme student behaviors, including bullying and harassment.
3. Providing appropriate support services to students experiencing significant mental health challenges.

“We understand that social-emotional learning and character development are key components of student achievement and general well-being,” explained Superintendent Dr. James Heinegg. “The Peace Model Project presents our schools with an opportunity to enhance the ways in which we support this critical area of student growth.”

As lead evaluator, Group i&i will work with the Project Staff to develop and administer tools through which the District can track progress and measure project outcomes. Staying true to the i&i values of utilizing data to foster strategic organizational growth and create meaningful impact, the evaluation will include three components:

- * An operational/process review will examine operational efficiency and effectiveness.
- * Output measurement will track the desired output, providing cumulative data that communicates level of activity of all programs and services.
- * Finally, an outcomes assessment will study how this project generated changes in school culture and student attitudes/coping skills.

“Besides our interest in evaluation design and analysis, we come to this project with great interest in its emotional health aspects and outcomes,” shared Toufic Hakim, PhD, Senior



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Principal. “We appreciate the ambitious goals of this project and look forward to this partnership to enhance the overall student learning experience.”

Group i&i members engaged in on this evaluation project include Toufic Hakim, PhD (co-lead), Kathy Weiner, MPA (co-lead), Dane Bozeman, PhD (data analyst), and Lauren Silverstein, PhD (project manager).

For questions about the Project or the Caldwell-West Caldwell School District call 973-228-6979 or visit www.cwcboe.org. For questions about Group i&i or the evaluation, please contact Group i&i at info@Groupi-i.com or 908.258.0043.