

Lowell Public Schools
Anti-Bullying and Violence Prevention Curriculum

PROGRAM	GRADE	DESCRIPTION
Second Step	K-9	Second Step is a classroom based social skills program aimed at reducing impulsive behavior while increasing social competence. The program is designed to improve behavior and reduce classroom disruptions. In addition to the classroom lessons, the program offers on-line support at http://www.cfchildren.org/support .
Open Circle	Pk-4	Open Circle is a social-emotional learning curriculum which focuses on communication, self-control and social problem solving which strengthens students' social competency skills.
Caring School Communities	Pk-4	Caring School Communities Program offers a central goal to help schools become a "caring community of learners" where there is an environment of kindness and respect. This program incorporates five components into the daily student life: caring, respect, responsibility, trust and family.
Responsive Classroom	K-6	The Responsive Classroom is an approach to elementary teaching that emphasizes social, emotional, and academic growth in a strong and safe school community. The goal is to enable optimal student learning. The approach consists of classroom and school-wide practices for helping children build academic and social-emotional competencies.
Bullying Prevention in Positive Behavioral Support: Expect Respect		Expect Respect is designed to improve the success of schools as effective learning environments. Aggression, violence, threats, intimidation and isolation compromise the ability of students to learn and perform in school. Establishing a school-wide expectation for common respect, teaching what that means, and ensuring that all students and staff members share in the responsibility of making schools respectful settings can make a difference.

A variety of school-wide social skills and violence prevention programs are used to ensure a safe and respectful school environment including the Social Thinking Curriculum. All programs focus on a “whole-school approach” to strengthen student’s social competency skills and reinforce a common language within the school environment. Violence prevention and conflict resolution programs incorporate a social skills curriculum that teaches students to change attitudes and behaviors that contribute to bullying and violence. Lessons on empathy, impulse control, problem solving, bullying prevention, and anger management are included.

In addition to these programs, district wide presentations are held for parents, students, and the community at large on ways to protect children from bullying and the dangers of cyberbullying. Presentations are in collaboration with the Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center (MARC) at Bridgewater State University, the Office of the Middlesex District Attorney, and Project Alliance.