



Approved Innovative Course

- *Districts must have local board approval to implement innovative courses*
- *Innovative courses may meet state elective credit only*
- *CTE Innovative courses may not be the final course in a coherent sequence for an endorsement*
- *Course requirements must be met without modification*

Course: *PeaceKeepers I and II*
PEIMS Code: *N1290024, N1290025*
Abbreviation: *PEACE1, PEACE2*
Grade Level(s): *9-12*
Number of Credits: *1.0*

Course description:

PeaceKeepers is a curriculum-driven mediation program which trains high school students in all aspects of the mediation process. Those students then mediate peer conflicts resolving them in a peaceful manner. PeaceKeepers is designed to provide skill development and knowledge acquisition in mediation plus substantial field experience to young people who are interested in careers in education and/or related helping professions. Participants will receive intensive 4 to 6 weeks of classroom training in skill-building mediation activities. After this training, mediators will implement a campus-wide mediation program as their field practicum. Classroom activities will continue to build skills, knowledge, and bonding for the group. Positive peer influence through nonviolence will be a central strategy for addressing such issues as conflict resolution, anger management, low academic achievement, dropout prevention, behavior problems, and negative attitudes toward school, in addition to other issues of concern in the school/district. Outside evaluation has shown significant results.

Teacher qualifications:

An assignment for PeaceKeepers is allowed with a valid Texas secondary classroom teaching certificate.

Additionally, it is recommended that the teacher of assignment hold any one of the following certificates:

- *Counselor (Grades PK-12)*
- *School Counselor (Early Childhood-Grade 12)*

The program coordinator should also have successfully completed the PeaceKeepers Coordinator program and be certified in the Peacekeeper Facilitator training.



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Additional information:

For additional information and training requirements, interested districts should contact Robert M. Gonzales, Executive Director, paxUnited at bob.gonzales@paxunited.org.