

Course: Peers Accepting, Learning, and Sharing I and II
PEIMS Code: N1290040 and N1290041
Abbreviation: PRALS-1 and PRALS-2
Grade Level(s): 11-12
Number of Credits: 1/2-1

Course description:

The *Peers Accepting Learning and Sharing* course is a peer assistance program offering selected high school students the opportunity to work as trained peer facilitators with other students on their own campuses, and from feeder middle and elementary schools. The Peers Accepting Learning and Sharing – Peer Assistance course is intended to provide a field experience for young people who are potentially interested in careers in education and related helping professions. Participants will be trained in a variety of helping skills that will enable them to assist other students in having a more positive and productive school experience. Positive peer influence will be utilized as a central strategy for addressing such issues as low achievement, at-risk youth, drop-out prevention, substance abuse prevention, absenteeism, behavior problems, students with special needs, and other issues of concern in the school/district.

The innovative approach is that students go through intensive training to prepare them for direct service helping placements with other students. This direct field service provides a foundation for the student peer facilitators to help other students have a more positive and productive school experience. In-class training of student peer helpers focuses on the knowledge and skills they will need to accomplish this goal. Students receive training in a number of areas including the role of the peer helper, confidentiality, listening skills, communication skills, decision-making/problem solving skills, group dynamics, trust building, self-awareness, and helping strategies. Working with younger students, students can provide assistance with peer tutoring, peer mediation and peer mentoring. In addition, the community service project is important because it provides an opportunity for students to engage in both the planning and implementation process. Service learning provides a unique approach that empowers the student peer helpers with hands-on life experiences.

Essential knowledge and skills:

Districts must contact owner of the course directly. Please contact Kenneth Serrano, Prevention Education Associates, Serrano@educating.org, directly for information regarding this course.