



Success Stories and Recognition

Here are some of the ways the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Program has been implemented in schools:

Advisory Period

New York, New York:

In New York City, the Legacy School for Integrated Studies and the Academy for Environmental Leadership have launched customized advisory programs to fulfill the missions of their schools and prepare students for college.

Standard Curriculum

Kansas City, Missouri:

The Kansas City Missouri Public School District purchased 400 sets of Overcoming Obstacles' standard high school curriculum for use in a district-wide advisory program beginning in early 2007.

New York, New York:

Over 100 New York City public schools are implementing Overcoming Obstacles as part of their regular school day.

In 2001, Offsite Educational Services, an Alternative and Continuing Education Program in New York City, implemented Overcoming Obstacles to increase student punctuality, identify student leaders, and help students develop goals for their futures.

In 2008, The Children's Aid Society of New York City reported that academic achievement improved markedly at the Manhattan Center for Science and Mathematics as a result of the Overcoming Obstacles program. Overcoming Obstacles is a mandatory freshman seminar class taught weekly from September through May.

Plainfield, New Jersey:

In spring of 2004, Plainfield Public Schools in New Jersey chose Overcoming Obstacles as its research-based Character Education program for implementation district-wide.

Peer Mentoring

New York, New York:

In 2008, Middle School 2 was removed from the No Child Left Behind list of "Persistently Dangerous Schools" due, in part, to the success of their Overcoming Obstacles peer mentoring program. MS 2 continues to use the Overcoming Obstacles program in conjunction with other projects in their school to expand their peer mediation initiative.

Public School 109 has expanded its Overcoming Obstacles peer mentoring program to include more of the school's students due to the success of last year's (2007/2008) program in improving the school environment and strengthening students' leadership skills.

Transitional Housing

New York, New York:

In 2007, the Department of Youth and Community Development requested that Overcoming Obstacles customize its standard curriculum to help students in temporary housing cope with transition. The program is now in its second year.

Summer Programs

Jersey City, New Jersey:

The Genesis Educational Center supplemented its 2008 summer program with the Overcoming Obstacles curriculum, giving middle school students an opportunity to learn and practice the life skills necessary for success in high school.

Jersey City Public Schools have used Overcoming Obstacles curriculum materials in several summer enrichment programs for 8th graders transitioning into high school. Overcoming Obstacles helped these students develop study skills, effective communication techniques, and wise decision making practices.

Dropout Prevention

Jersey City, New Jersey:

Beginning in 1998, Overcoming Obstacles was the sole source for curriculum materials and professional development in Jersey City Public Schools' highly lauded "Fifteen Together" dropout prevention program.

After School Programs

New York, New York:

The After School Corporation (TASC), which supports comprehensive after-school programs in New York City, with the goal of enhancing the quality, availability and sustainability of programs in New York and the nation, has been using Overcoming Obstacles since 2003.

Hartford, Connecticut:

Since 2004, The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving has been using Overcoming Obstacles to develop students' life skills in after-school programs located throughout the Capitol Region of Connecticut.

Overcoming Obstacles is recognized for effectiveness.

✓ **The Community Development Department of Los Angeles**

Overcoming Obstacles curriculum was recognized as an effective tool for helping high-risk students reach higher self-sufficiency stages.

✓ **The New York City Board of Education**

Overcoming Obstacles curriculum was recognized as a leading substance abuse prevention program and a leading school-to-career program.

✓ **New York City**

Overcoming Obstacles was the 2003 recipient of the Superintendent's Conflict Resolution Award for helping Brooklyn and Staten Island high school students succeed academically.

✓ **State of New Jersey**

Overcoming Obstacles is a recommended Character Education Resource.

✓ **Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL)**

Overcoming Obstacles is one of 80 recommended school-based social and emotional learning programs.

Community for Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization, publishes the Overcoming Obstacles Life Skills Curriculum. The mission of Community for Education Foundation is to ensure that all young people learn the communication, decision making, and goal setting skills they need to be successful in life.



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