

Open Circle



School Community



School-based



Anger



Behavioral Problems



Bullying



Emotional Competency



Relationships



School Culture



Social Competency

TARGET AUDIENCE

This program is delivered to students in kindergarten through 5th grade, their families, and school community members and is intended to impact the students and their families.

SUMMARY

Open Circle, a school-based prevention program, is designed to address the social and emotional learning needs of children and uses a whole-school approach that encourages cooperation among school community members (i.e., students, teachers, administrators, families, community members, specialists, and support staff).

EVIDENCE

Two studies were conducted by members of Wellesley College, where the program was developed. The first study utilized a matched pair randomized controlled design to select similar classrooms in urban and suburban settings. Half of the classrooms received the Open Circle intervention, and half did not. Significant differences were found in teacher-reported behaviors for Open Circle students (i.e., an increase in social skills and a decrease in behavioral problems) compared to control groups when measured at the start and end of the school year. The second study utilized a post-treatment survey to document that children who had been in an intervention group, while in elementary school, reported better social adjustment (i.e., girls) and less physical fighting (i.e., boys) when polled later during middle school. The sample of participants for this study was not as diverse as the sample for the first study. No external evaluations were found.

COMPONENTS

Open Circle intends to enhance participants' social and emotional skills and increase their abilities to understand and manage feelings, practice empathy, listen, cooperate, express anger in productive ways, create positive relationships, solve problems, recognize and attend to bullying, and become a responsible bystander.

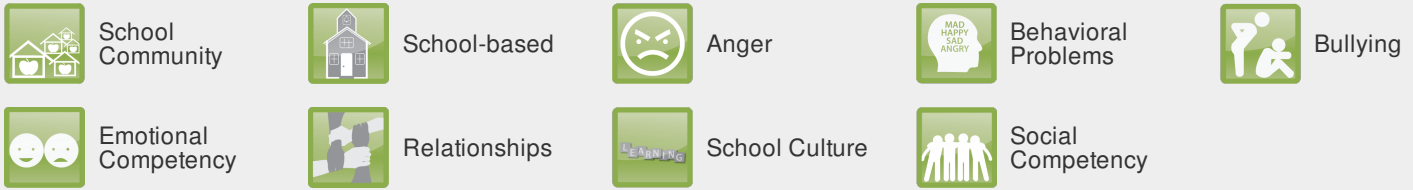
The program is implemented through Open Circle Meetings in which students form a circle of chairs and include one empty seat that represents an open space for another person, opinion, or voice. Lessons are interactive and include discussions, role-playing, community-building activities, and examining children's literature.

In addition, families are involved in the program through Open Circle workshops and parent letters that explain the Open Circle Curriculum approach. Members of the school community are also taught how to utilize and emphasize pro-social skills during the school day.

PREVIOUS USE

Open Circle has been used by over 12,500 educators with over half a million children across the Northeastern United States.

Open Circle



TRAINING

Training is required, and a variety of on- and off-site options are available. Prices range from \$250 to \$975. Please visit www.open-circle.org for additional information.

CONSIDERATIONS

Considerations for implementing this program include acquiring buy-in from the school community, ensuring facilitators receive training, and making time within an existing curriculum for the Open Circle program.

The Clearinghouse can help address these considerations. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

IMPLEMENTATION

If you are interested in implementing Open Circle, the Clearinghouse is interested in helping you!

Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

TIME



This program is implemented in 15-minute Open Circle meetings that are held twice a week during the school year. The curriculum includes 37 core lessons, 36 supplementary lessons, 50 community-building activities and the use of posters, literature, and homework activities.

COST



Prices for various workshops and programs range from \$200 to \$975 per person. The 2015 Open Circle Curriculum costs \$100 each. Please visit www.open-circle.org/images/pdf/OpenCircle_Catalog15.pdf for more information on costs.

EVALUATION PLAN

To move Open Circle to the Effective category on the Clearinghouse Continuum of Evidence, at least one external evaluation must be conducted that demonstrates sustained, positive outcomes. This study must be conducted independently of the program developer.

The Clearinghouse can help you develop an evaluation plan to ensure the program components are meeting your goals. Please call 1-877-382-9185 or email Clearinghouse@psu.edu

CONTACT

Contact the Clearinghouse with any questions regarding this program.

Phone: 1-877-382-9185 Email: Clearinghouse@psu.edu

You may also contact Open Circle by mail Wellesley College-STC, 106 Central Street, Wellesley, MA 02481, phone 1-781-283-3277, fax 1-781-283-3717, email info@open-circle.org, or visit www.open-circle.org/

SOURCE

www.open-circle.org