

# SCHOOL-BASED PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES

Harford County School-Based Peaceful Alternatives is a FREE, confidential program that supports learning and empowers students to resolve disputes in constructive ways.

## Benefits include:

- *Increased understanding among classmates and school staff*
- *A collaborative problem-solving environment*
- *Improved student accountability*
- *Access to community and school-based resources*
- *Enhanced relationships in school and family life*
- *Development of life skills*

The School Based Peaceful Alternatives program was developed in partnership with Harford County Public Schools and Harford County Government's Office of Human Relations and Mediation. **Mediators have more than 95 hours of training and have passed background checks.**

*To schedule a mediation, please contact the Mediation Program at 410-638-4807 or visit [www.harfordmediation.org](http://www.harfordmediation.org) to submit a request.*

*The Harford County Community Mediation Commission was established in 1995 to provide citizens with an effective and efficient process to resolve disputes through mediation.*

*The Commission is comprised of 15 members, appointed by the County Executive, and the Community Mediation Coordinator.*



*Spanish Speaking intake staff available Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Fridays 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. A voicemail will be available at other times. When necessary, Spanish speaking staff can return a phone call during evenings and weekends if participants cannot be reached at other times.  
855-826-2909*

For more information please contact the Harford County Community Mediation Program at 410-638-4807 or visit [www.harfordmediation.org](http://www.harfordmediation.org)

*Produced with support from the Maryland Judiciary's Mediation and Conflict Resolution Office*

**BARRY GLASSMAN**  
Harford County Executive

**AMBER SHRODES**  
Director, Department of Community Services



# HARFORD COUNTY

## COMMUNITY MEDIATION PROGRAM (HCCMP)



# SCHOOL-BASED PEACEFUL ALTERNATIVES

## School Stakeholder Mediation

School stakeholder mediation is FREE, voluntary, neutral and confidential. Sessions are held during the day at school, led by skilled mediators trained by the Harford County Community Mediation Program (HCCMP).



### Mediations can be between:

- Students
- Students and teachers
- Students and parents  
(neighborhood mediations)
- Parents and teachers and/or the school

### What kinds of disputes can be mediated?

- Poor communication issues
- Parent / teen conflicts
- Rumors: He said / She said
- Disputes between friends
- Cyber conflicts

*School stakeholder mediations enhance understanding between participants, clarify issues, identify solutions, and result in agreements that are acceptable to everyone. Neighborhood mediations can also be held anytime at a location that is convenient to the participants.*

## Attendance / Tardiness Mediation

The challenges of truancy are addressed without penalizing or disciplining participants. A neutral mediator brings together caregivers, students and teachers to identify underlying issues, brainstorm possible solutions and develop a united action plan. **Anyone can request attendance/tardiness mediation at any time during the school year.**

### Benefits include:

- Improved attendance
- Improved communication between the student, the family and the school
- Connecting families to available school resources

Over a five-year period, post mediation surveys have found that **95%** of parents and **98%** of teachers found the attendance mediation process to be satisfactory or very satisfactory.

*(University of Maryland's Center for Dispute Resolution, Attendance Mediation Newsletter 2007-2012)*

**In addition, conflict resolution classes are available at selected schools. Please contact 410-638-4807 for more information.**

*"Teaching students conflict resolution skills at a young age promotes social development in ways that can improve the quality of school-life, family-life, and even affect eventual job prospects."*

*– (Johnson, et al., 1994)*

