

Implementing An All Abilities Alliance To Improve School Culture and Climate



All Abilities Alliance

Facilitating Empowerment of Youth with Disabilities

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Housekeeping

- If you have a question throughout the presentation please type them in the chat box



The Governor's Prevention Partnership

Our Mission

The Governor's Prevention Partnership equips, empowers, and connects organizations, communities and families to prevent substance abuse, underage drinking and violence among youth and promotes positive outcomes for all young people in Connecticut.

Our Vision

Young people across the State of Connecticut will be thriving in their families, schools, communities, and personal lives as a result of prevention strategies, interventions, and public policies that reduce risks and promote positive outcomes.



Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities

- All Abilities Alliance is a Connecticut Council on Developmental Disabilities Initiative
- The Governor's Prevention Partnership has been funded for the last four years to develop, pilot and expand the All Abilities Alliance model



Learning Objectives/Agenda

- Origins and Historical Context of The Alliance Project
 - All Abilities Alliance Model to provide context
- Demonstrate Variations of the Alliance Model
- All Abilities Alliance Structures
 - Supporting and Sustaining an Alliance



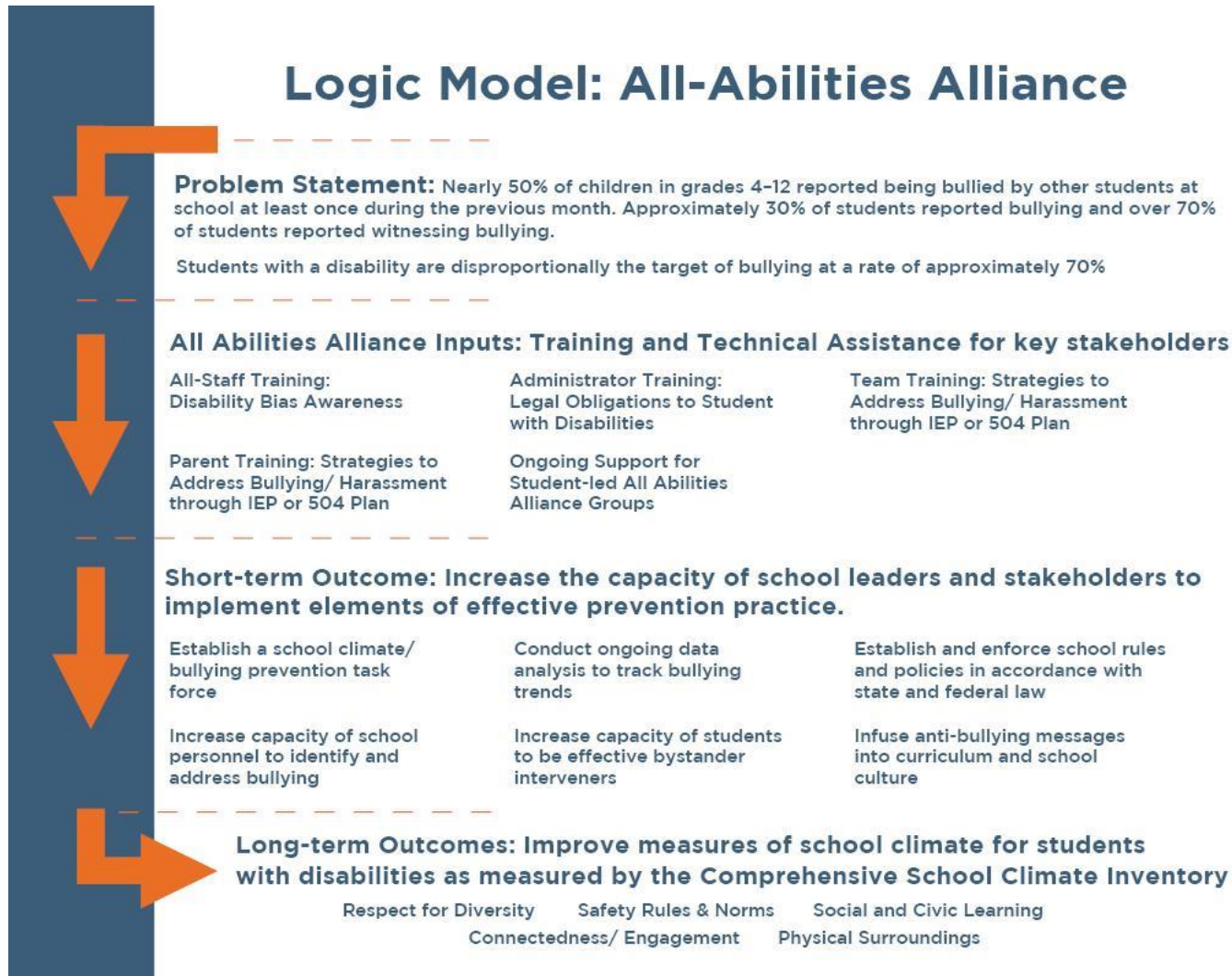
The Alliance In Context

- Part of a broader Improve School Climate Initiative
 - Address bullying generally and LGBTQ bullying
 - Area of growth to address bullying and disability
 - Consultant hired to research and explore funding opportunities



Logic Model

Logic Model: All-Abilities Alliance



Research Findings

- **Need One: Train Administrators, Teams and Parents in School's Legal Obligations Surrounding Bullying**
 - **Improve School Climate 3 Part Training Series developed**
 - Part 1 Disability Bias
 - Part 2 Overview of Legal Obligations through the IEP/504
 - Part 3 IEP/504 Plan
- **Need Two: Create Meaningful Student Involvement**
 - Anti-bullying assemblies and training unsuccessful
 - All Abilities Alliance Concept Created



All Abilities Alliance

- Alliance Members Are Students...
 - with and without disabilities led by an adult school advisor
 - with a passion for disability as a social justice issue
- Alliances Enable Students to...
 - learn about disability issues
 - advocate as a small group for change
 - educate the whole school through awareness activities and events



By-Products of Alliances

- Fostering Genuine Friendships
 - The key indicator in mitigating of bullying
- Reduced Disability-Based Bullying
- Improved School Climate



Alliances 2016-2017

2015

Woodstock
Academy

2016-2017

7 Schools

2018

Growth



Alliances 2017-2018

2015-2016	2017-2018 All Abilities Alliance Sites
<p>Woodstock Academy Woodstock, Connecticut</p>	<p>Manchester Public Schools (MPS) Family Resource Center *Waddell Elementary School</p>
<p>King Phillip Middle School West Hartford, Connecticut Emmett O'Brien Technical School Ansonia, Connecticut CPAC New Haven, Connecticut *Keeney School Manchester, Connecticut *Highland Park School Manchester, Connecticut</p>	<p>*Verplank Elementary School (MPS) *Highland Park School (MPS) *Robertson School (MPS) *Buckley School (MPS) *Martin School (MPS) *Keeney Elementary (MPS) Martin Luther King School Hartford Public Schools Oliver Wolcott Technical High School Torrington Connecticut</p>



Woodstock Academy



<https://youtu.be/amQQgMW1Xio>



Alliance Accomplishments

- State representatives spoke at launch
- Presented to other Alliances
- Award winning video about autism acceptance
- Presented at Building a Great Life Conference
- Worked with Kids as Self-Advocates (KASA)
- Raised money for Alliance and disability related issues



Additional Alliance Accomplishments

- Facilitated Disability Awareness Weeks
- Hosted National speaker who is blind and a 9/11 survivor
- Advocated with administration to remove structural barriers in school
- Student Ambassadors pursued career paths in special education



The Future

- Working collaboratively with Councils, Centers for Independent Living, and other disability groups
- Participating in Partners in Policy making
- Testifying at public hearings and speaking at events



Alliance Launch & Sustainability



- Funding
- Materials
- Capacity Building Organization
- Participating Schools



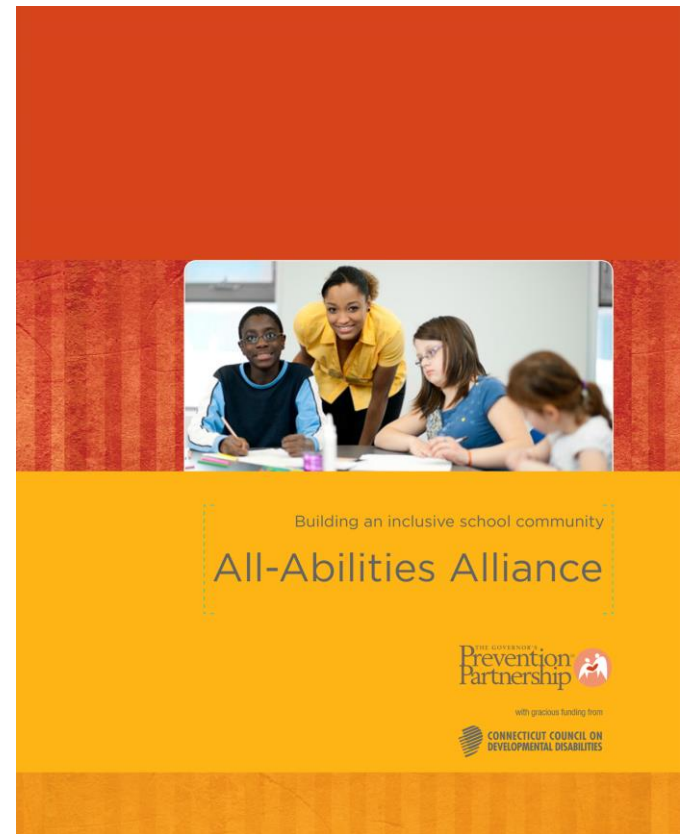
Funding

- Funding Supports
 - Councils can be a great funding source
 - Private sector funding



Materials

- All Abilities Alliance Handbook
 - Originally targeted High School
 - Adaptation for Middle and Elementary schools in process



Capacity Building Organization

- Potential Capacity Building Organizations
 - Centers for Independent Living
 - Disability Youth Advocacy Programs
 - Disability organizations unique to the region



The Role of Capacity Building Organizations

- Promote and protect integrity of the model
- Recruit schools to participate
- Engage Schools in Alliance MOUs
- Provide support and technical assistance to Advisors
 - Alliance Cohort calls
 - Site visits
 - Ensuring contract compliance



School Participation

- Signed MOU
- Confirm Adult Advisor
- Participate in bi-monthly cohort calls
- Participate in disability bias awareness training
- Agree to provide basic data
- Initiated in elementary, middle or high schools
- May opt to launch as a pilot program in a school or district



Why Schools Adopt The Alliance Model

- To Improve School Climate for students with disabilities
- Enhance Overall School Climate
- Mitigate bullying and harassment



How The Partnership Can Support Developing Alliances

- Materials
- Technical Assistance
- Training
 - Fee based opportunities
 - Ongoing monthly calls



Questions & Thank You



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