

Community Matters is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit founded in 1996 and headquartered in Sonoma County, California. The organization is recognized as a national leader in school safety efforts, school climate improvement and bullying and violence prevention. Community Matters provides programs and services for educational, youth-serving and governmental entities. During the past two decades, the organization has worked with more than 1,600 schools, agencies and organizations across 32 states, Puerto Rico, Guam and Canada. Our work has been featured in numerous media outlets, and we have presented to audiences at the local, state, regional and national levels.

**Our mission:** *"To collaborate with schools and communities in creating safe and inclusive environments where all youth and adults thrive."*

For a brief organizational description, [click here](#).

For a more comprehensive overview, [click here](#).

Our flagship program **Safe School Ambassadors® (SSA)** has been implemented in over 1500 schools nationwide. SSA engages the socially influential leaders of a school's diverse cliques, and equips them with effective non-violent communication and intervention skills they can use with their peers to prevent, stop and report bullying, cyber-bullying and harassment. Safe School Ambassadors® is included in [SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices](#).

For more information, [click here](#).

**Our central beliefs and expertise** are expressed through our [Whole School Climate Framework](#). The Framework provides educational leaders with an easy to understand, cost-effective and comprehensive blueprint for accomplishing the outcomes that schools are mandated to achieve. The Framework supports leaders in prioritizing, organizing, coordinating, and reporting on their efforts in an integrated and systemic way. Within this framework, we provide programs and services that address positive school climate via five primary areas: students, staff, organization, families and community.

**Services we offer:**

- Consulting
- Strategic planning
- Presentations
- Trainings
- Programs that address school safety/school climate, bullying and cyber-bullying



**Results:** Community Matters programs are effective. Schools that have implemented our programs report having a safer school with fewer suspensions, increased attendance and improved academic achievement, including fewer alternative education placements. Schools also see reductions in the costs and losses in both time and money related to suspensions.

To learn more about the Whole School Climate Framework, [click here](#).

To view our [Program & Services Guide](#), [click here](#).



Community  
Matters

| Empowering Youth  
Transforming Communities

Other Programs and Services:

[Whole School Climate 360° Assessment](#)

[Professional Development Trainings](#)

[Parent Education Workshops](#)

Online Resources:

[www.community-matters.org](http://www.community-matters.org)

[Blog Page](#)

[Safe School Ambassadors – Today Show segment](#)

[Video Library](#)

[Webinar Recordings](#)