



Jessica Melendez-Carrillo

Congressman Silvestre & Carolina Reyes School
El Paso, Texas



Through the implementation of PBIS we have seen a significant decrease in the discipline referrals submitted to the office. During the school year 2015-2016 we had 76 office referrals, 2016-2017 52 office referrals and this present school year we have had 9 office referrals. In collaboration with our District PBIS coordinator and our Region Service Center, we have been able to establish clear expectations and integrate preventative strategies that will lead students to make good choices. Nevertheless, I strongly believe that it is imperative to discipline with dignity and respect as we want to address student behavior but with respect and understanding. At the beginning of this school year, I trained our teachers in the implementation of a basic restorative approach and how we can work together to create a positive and successful learning environment. Moreover, we put together a student coalition that leads by example. Students from 4th and 5th grade are role models in behavior and we teach them to instill these behaviors to their classmates and other students around the school. Research shows that students are forgetting to be kind to one another and that these behaviors are learning to increase of suicide rates. According to the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2016) it shows an average of 14 suicides per year nationwide among children 10 or younger since 1999. That compares to over 1,400 per year among 11-18 year olds.

There are many reasons why children commit suicide but the leading cause is bullying and cyberbullying. I am committed to reach every single one of my students and this is only possible when you work as a team because every teacher, every administrator, every counselor, every community member counts....Teamwork makes the dream work!