

# Building A Kind & Caring Culture

For this project, students will create an action plan for how their school (or classroom, depending on how you want to scale the project) can be more inclusive. The plan should address inclusiveness, fairness, and/or equity, depending on your students and how big or small you want this project to be. Some ideas for what this can look like are in Part 1 below.

## Inclusiveness Sub-Concept(s)

Fairness, Equity, Kindness

## Project Timeframe

1-2 weeks, broken up as needed by class schedule

## Required Materials

- ❑ TBD - whatever aids in the planning and drafting processes (likely note-taking and visual-aid making materials)

## Standards Map

This project aligns with CASEL Competencies, National Health Education Standards, International Society for Technology in Education Standards, when applicable, and Common Core State Standards. Please refer to the [Standards Map](#) for more information.

Note: If you are looking for a cross-curricular opportunity aligned with ELA standards in research and persuasive writing/presenting, this would be a good project for that.

## PART 1:

We've been working on being kind in the face of bullying and of being more than a bystander. We have been working on being inclusive, being fair, and looking for ways to ensure everyone has the same opportunity to be successful. Perhaps we could share the ideas we've been learning with others in our school community. Would you be interested in doing that?

Have the students brainstorm ways to develop a kind and caring community at school. (This could compliment the school's anti-bullying program, if one exists.)

For examples, students could:

- Start a poster campaign where students design posters to promote a kindness zone at school. They could think about how a poster campaign can address where bullying occurs at school. (As an optional activity have students research bullying statistics or collect bullying data for the school before designing posters, and then track instances of kindness a month or so after the poster campaign or kindness zone is created.)
- Introduce a kindness box where students can place notes they write about kind acts they have seen or experienced. These ideas could be shared at a kindness assembly once a month.
- Start a kindness club where students discuss ways to be kind at school. (See supplemental RAK Club materials at <http://randomactsofkindness.org>.)
- Make kindness stickers out of contact paper and permanent markers.
- Create a physical place at the school where students can address issues as they arise.

Have students discuss their ideas and vote on what activity they want to pursue. The end product will be an action plan that they can present to the administration (or whomever is the appropriate approving body) and actually implement the plan in their school/classroom. Use Week 1 as the brainstorming stage.

## **PART 2:**

In Part 2 of the project, have students work on various parts of their plan. Depending on what they pick, you might break students into small groups or give everyone an individual role. Or, you may stay as a large group and work on the plan together.

The goal will be to empower students to do the work themselves with you as their guide. Allot time in Week 2 for students to create any visual aids as part of their plan. While the ultimate goal is for them to implement this plan, the first step is for them to plan it. They should understand that these types of changes aren't made overnight or on a whim. In order to create meaningful change, especially regarding student/faculty behavior and school culture, the plan must be thoughtful and implementable. This is where the action plan comes in. But, as part of the plan, they will want to create compelling data reports and visuals to persuade their audience that their ideas will work. Use Week 2 as the plan drafting stage.