



Connections

Student expressions of prejudice are [exploding across the country](#). Prejudice often is an early warning sign that requires prevention and intervention. A significant number of school shooters expressed prejudice long before they committed their violent acts. So, not dealing with prejudice has, in many cases, led to the most extreme and tragic damage imaginable.

Prejudice has four drivers, each resulting from an unmet basic need. Since all behavior is based on need, Connections gives educators, parents, and students the tools to ensure student needs for significance, belonging, autonomy, and creative play are met in healthy ways. It also ensures everyone can respond to hurtful comments and actions in a way that maintains dignity and engagement.

The Connections Learning Session:

1. Examines how unmet student needs for belonging, significance, autonomy, and creative play can contribute to expressions of prejudice.
2. Connects the dots between prejudice, bullying, suicide, and school shootings.
3. Identifies strategies that increase student connection and school safety.
4. Increases skill and comfort level for communicating effectively across differences, including responding to miscommunication, conflict, and hurtful words and actions.

“The session developed the content and skills in our staff so they can address challenging topics they face with students and families.”

– Dr. Skip Moran, Principal
Armstrong Elementary, Highland Park ISD

The 90-minute learning session includes structured role-play to ensure participants fully understand and can use the skills. However, mastery of the skills increases with additional exposures. We also offer reinforcement emails and brief reinforcement scenarios for use in team meetings to continue the learning process.

