



## Responsibility and Respect

Students are responsible for using their abilities and talents to gain the most from their school experience. They are responsible for being in school on time each day and for following all school rules. Parents, teachers, and administrators expect students to behave in a way that contributes positively to their education and to their schools.

### Expectations for behavior are based on:

- respect for self
- 
- respect for others and their rights
- 
- respect for individual dignity
- 
- respect for the school
- 
- respect for those in authority
- 
- respect for the community

**For more information,**  
contact the Responsible Actions Program  
Office at 410-222-5389.



ANNE ARUNDEL  
COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## Responsible Actions Program

*Helping students and their parents  
create positive changes to maintain  
a safe, nonviolent, nonbiased lifestyle  
for success in school and in life.*

Students who behave aggressively or in a biased manner at school, on school property, or during school-sponsored activities may be required to participate in the Responsible Actions Program.

## Who is involved?

Both **students** and their **parents** must participate in the Responsible Actions Program, which has three components:

- Private family orientation and, when necessary, exit conference with a program counselor
- Seven two-hour student class meetings
- Four two-hour parent class meetings

### Program Counselor

Before beginning the Responsible Actions Program, each family meets with a program counselor to discuss the program, requirements for completion, and any concerns the parent or student might have. Usually, the program counselor will be the instructor for the parent class meetings.

### Students

During student classes, students talk about practical alternatives to violence as they learn to:

- recognize and define violence;
- define direct and indirect consequences of violence;
- analyze conflicts from different points of view;
- recognize faulty patterns of thinking that may cause aggression, violence, or bias;
- manage anger in different ways;
- build upon positive events and strengths (develop resilience);
- select and set goals, *and*
- find and use resources for getting additional help, if needed.

A typical class consists of individual and group work requiring each student to actively participate.

### Parents

Parents meet in four two-hour class sessions. Small class sizes allow for open and honest discussion. Topics in the parent sessions are similar to those in the student classes and include:

- understanding violence and its effects on teenagers;
- understanding bias and its effects on teenagers;
- understanding adolescence today;
- helping teenagers manage anger, conflict, and bias;
- helping their students become successful, *and*
- finding and using resources and tips.

Parents and students attend two class meetings together and also collaborate on several home assignments. Each family creates a success plan for their student after discussing goals and strengths that already exist in the family.

## Where and When does the program meet?

The student segment of the Responsible Actions Program is conducted during eight evening classes that meet twice a week for four weeks. Parents attend four classes that meet once a week for two hours.

Schedule	Student	Parents
Orientation Conference	✓	✓
7 Evening Classes	✓	
4 Evening Classes		✓
Follow-up Conference	✓	✓

Families receive a scheduling letter informing them about program location, dates, and times.

Before the Responsible Actions Program begins, each family meets for an orientation conference. Follow-up conferences are conducted at the end of the program.

## How does the program end?

At the end of the Responsible Actions Program, each family meets with the program counselor to discuss program highlights, other concerns, and any additional information that may be needed.

Once the student has successfully completed the program, the student's home school is notified. In addition, the Regular School Team is notified to monitor the student's continued success in school.

## How do students successfully complete the program?

To successfully complete the Responsible Actions Program, all of the following must occur:

1. The student's parents or guardians must attend the parent class sessions *and*
2. The student must:
  - be punctual;
  - attend all class meetings;
  - complete all required assignments, *and*
  - participate appropriately in class.
3. The student must attend a private family orientation and, when necessary, an exit conference with a program counselor.

