

“A global economy and global environment must be reflected in education if we are to produce global scholars who are ready to assume their roles as world citizens and leaders. This is a statement that has been my focus throughout my career as an educator. The total child concept has been the foundation for preparing students academically, socially and physically. As I continue to educate teachers and students, I realize that the world in which we live is continuously changing. We as educators must change and improve how we educate our students to ensure that they will have a chance at leading productive lives and become successful citizens of our community.

This past year, I realize that we were not equipping students with what they needed to protect themselves at school or in the community in which they live. Students are approached by bullies, sex offenders and an inability of how to defend themselves. I realize that we never gave them the tools they needed. I reached out to my social worker, and she located a program called “radKIDS” for me to view. After viewing the program, I wanted to give this program to all of the students within my reach including my family.

After attending the training, I learned how to teach children how to protect themselves from people who would try to harm them. There are defensive techniques taught in the program that any student will be able to utilize from Pre K to adulthood. One great strategy of the program, it is told from the voice of their peers. We use social stories to teach our child all of the time in school. It also had a parent component to involve and educate parents. Parent involvement has become very important in the educational process of their children. This program will provide safety education that includes fire safety plans to how to use safety skills in a mall or park with their parents. When I talk with parents about what I learned this summer, they really want the radKIDS program for their children. What parent wouldn’t want their child to be trained how to defend themselves?

The self-defense skills will be the part many school districts will have a difficult time digesting. However, this program is embedded with teaching students that no one has a right to hurt them as well as they do not have the right to hurt anyone else. It is emphasized to the point where if the program is taught as designed, students would only use the program to defend themselves, flee to a safety zone and tell an adult. It is time for educators to allow students to defend themselves because we cannot be in place the whole day to protect students. I cannot wait until the school year begins so that I can put a tool in place to give students permission and skills not to let anyone hurt them. When reading about child abductions, it really squeezes my heart when we as adults can give our children a fighting chance, but we refuse because of being scared and a need to delete old discipline policies that are not stopping students from being hurt. I will retire soon, and I would want this program to be something that I can give to students that could possibly save them from being abducted, physically or emotionally harmed.”

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