STATEWIDE PEER MEDIATION POLICY

To: Education Commissioner, Dr. Brenda Cassellius, State of Minnesota

From: Alexander Celeste, Program Coordinator/Math, Avalon School

700 Glendale Street, Saint Paul, MN 55114 / aceleste@avalonschool.org / http://www.avalonschool.org
Why Have Peer Mediation

- Decrease in suspension will aid the achievement gap
- Fits into parts of the 7-point plan
- Empowers students
- If implemented well positively affects academic learning
Avalon’s Peer Mediation Program

- Mostly student managed coordination
- Student (peer) mediators
- Disputant-initiated mediation request
- During independent work time in private room
- Specific room and table setup
Issues to Work Out For Adaptation

- Staff member as only coordinator as students in classes all the time
  - Who? New hire, counselor, or staff member chosen by student government
- Peer mediators and disputants that match being available for mediation
- Private room being important for successful peer mediation
Three Enforcement Models

- Grant
- Mandate
  - Funded or unfunded
- Incentivized
Legislative Support

• Whatever program you design you should make sure those sitting on the K-12 Education Reform Committee are in agreement with it in all respects
• Don’t need support to fully have authority to implement the program, but is good to have anyways
Final Thoughts

• Cannot lay out a complete program for you
  • Don’t have the sort of expertise needed to write statewide policy
  • We’re just giving you the description of our program
  • And tips for what will need the most work to adapt our program

• Enforcement model to get schools using program is also in your hands
  • All we did is give the three best options

• Are willing to help you design the specific policy, though