

# AIMS Mini-Grant Application

## Challenge Days

I. In no more than 5 paragraphs, please describe the work that will be undertaken.

1, 2 Step was the creation of a principal's and two teachers' desire to make a positive change among the student body. After viewing an *Oprah Show* featuring Challenge Day in January of 2007, we were inspired to form our own group to create ???'s own Challenge Days. Challenge Day is a way for students to learn how to break down the barriers and see how they are more alike than different. We recruited twelve 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls to form the group 1, 2 Step. These girls took on the task of leading the first Challenge Days for ????. They successfully lead 3 Challenge Days for approximately 120 students. It was very successful. The following school year, seventeen 8<sup>th</sup> grade girls were chosen to lead the group for the 2007-08 school year. We were able to hold 4 Challenge Days.

Challenge Day has affected many students' lives. For example, two female students were verbally fighting in the hallway. The girls were quickly stopped and taken into the principal's office to discuss their confrontation. One of the girls admitted that she was wrong and did not want to fight because of what she had just learned from Challenge Day. The other girl was speechless. The girls talked over their problem with the principal. Before leaving the office, the girl who did not attend Challenge Day asked if she could attend the next one. She did attend the next Challenge Day. Both of these students had a history of not resolving conflicts in such a positive manner. This is just one of the many stories that we have witnessed or been told about by staff and students.

Currently, the 1, 2 Step group has already begun. The student body has been buzzing about who was going to be in the group and when the Challenge Day was going to take place. Our goal is to have twice as many Challenge Days this school year so every student will be able to participate. The 1, 2 Step group puts on Challenge Days solely through fund raisers and donations.

II. Duration of the project:

1, 2 Step will last the entire school year. However, Challenge Days only last half of a school day. Our goal is to conduct 8 Challenge Days this school year.

III. What is the intended benefit of the project and what needs does the project address?

The intended benefit of Challenge Day is to decrease bullying and increase tolerance among the students. It is our goal this year for every student to attend Challenge Day. We want the students to learn from Challenge Day that they are more alike than different.

IV. Please explain the budget for this project (required).

\$200.00 to purchase T-shirts for our leadership team which also encourages unity  
\$100.00 to purchase professional development materials such as anti-bullying, team building, ice breakers and social emotional development of the middle school student

V. How will the project and its outcomes be monitored and evaluated?

We will evaluate Challenge through the following assessment tools.

- Student discipline referrals-compare/contrast 07-08 data with this year's data
- Pre and post Challenge Day surveys completed by students
- Staff surveys
- 1, 2 Step journals/on-going surveys