

## **Rachel's Challenge Intro**

160,000 students skip school every day because they are afraid.

Isolation, harassment and violence are unfortunately the norm for too many young people. It doesn't have to be this way. Creating a school environment less susceptible to harassment and violence is possible. It is happening in culturally diverse schools across North America every day.

Based on the life and writings of Rachel Scott, the first victim in the Columbine High School shootings, Rachel's Challenge provides assemblies, trainings and support materials that form a proactive, preventative intervention focused on social-emotional learning and behavioral health. Programs that get to the root of the problem: student's hearts and learned behaviors.

We help students connect with themselves, with other students, and with adults in their school community.

After Rachel's Challenge, schools report less harassment and isolation. They see bullying incidents go down and disciplinary referrals decrease. Seven school shootings that we know of have been prevented. And students, parents and educators report more than 100 suicides averted annually.

Last year Rachel's Challenge delivered culture building programs to 774 schools. We were in 43 States, Canada, Bermuda, Mexico and more. This represents almost 1 million students, educators and parents involved in our programs. It affords us the privilege of seeing first-hand, every day, the positive results of solid connections and renewed hope.

Thank you for joining the battle to end fear, isolation and harassment by promoting positive culture and climate in our schools.

## Safer, more connected schools. Together we can do it!