

LAW AND EDUCATION - PARTNERS FOR BETTER CITIZENSHIP

The Temple-LEAP Pennsylvania Law-Related Education Training and Dissemination Project

Why Law-Related Education (LRE)?

The Temple-LEAP Pennsylvania LRE Training and Dissemination Project, a statewide program, works to teach good citizenship and to reduce delinquent behavior through education.

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the U. S. Department of Justice conducted a national study of the effectiveness of law-related education from 1981 to 1983. The conclusion: "Law-related education when taught according to specific, identifiable standards can serve as a significant deterrent to delinquent behavior." The students studied increased their practical knowledge about the law and the legal system, and also "showed improvement in many factors associated with law abiding behavior."

What is Law-Related Education?

LRE brings the law to life. Students and teachers work with "partners" from the local law enforcement and justice community. Students see their role in the community more clearly, and understand the stake which they have in learning about the law. LRE makes better citizens.

LRE examines the basic concepts which underlie democracy - freedom, authority, equality, fairness, justice, privacy. Students learn about what they need to know and about what interests them. The content can be varied, covering sports and the law, consumer law, the court system, the Constitution, juvenile justice, contracts, student rights and obligations, and other concepts.

Classroom techniques focus upon student involvement using role playing, mock trials and moot court, direct contact with district justices, judges, attorneys and others, police ride-alongs and a wide range of other participatory activities.

In short, LRE promotes:

- Basic skills
- Learning law and concepts, such as the need for law.
- The reduction of delinquent behavior.
- Partnerships between schools and the local justice community.
- Good citizenship and respect for our democratic system.

Part of a National LRE Network

The Temple-LEAP Pennsylvania LRE Training and Dissemination Project is part of a nationwide network of projects sponsored by the U. S. Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. The U. S. Department of Education is the major sponsor of the Pennsylvania project.

The Pennsylvania Project

The Temple-LEAP Pennsylvania LRE Training and Dissemination Project seeks to:

1. Reduce delinquent behavior among Pennsylvania students and promote the citizenship goal for quality education in Pennsylvania.
2. Train competent teachers of LRE - grades kindergarten through twelve.
3. Develop active partnerships between local school districts and law enforcement-justice agencies.
4. Build on the momentum of other recent LRE projects.
5. Provide expertise, resources, and materials based on the goals of participating school districts.
6. Disseminate current information about existing programs and resources throughout Pennsylvania.
7. Provide the link to LRE projects on national and state levels.

The Project trains staff development trainers for local school districts. It provides LRE experts for local training workshops and advice on LRE curriculum, methods and materials, and the building of local partnerships. Through its network and newsletter, the Project lets participating schools know what is happening elsewhere in Pennsylvania LRE.

