

Student 2 Student Initiative (S2S)©

The Student 2 Student Initiative (S2S)© meets very real transitioning student needs with:

- Immediate peer credibility
- Positive peer relationships
- Valued information



A team from a school campus is trained to return to their home campus to provide leadership in training other students on methods to support students who are transitioning to or from their school. The team is composed of advisors, students, and School Liaison Officers. The focus is student centered, and is student led with close supervision. The development of student trainers who can return to their home campus for training other peers is critical to the success and credibility of the program.

Three researched based modules are used for the training:

- Academics: (Requirements, Processes, Access)
e.g. Test Assessments, Progress Reporting, Programs and opportunities, Enrichment support
- Relationships: (Acceptance, Attributes, Friendships)
e.g. Faculty/staff, Groups, Organizations, Peers, Local, On/off campus
- Finding the way: (Attention, Orientation, Appreciation)
e.g. How we do business, the community, the campus, the culture, rules/policies, school documents, structures

The curriculum modules incorporate planning, technology, resources, goal setting, support systems, and elements of transitioning in and out of the campus in each of the modules. It is a research-based model. Through the training, the team develops well prepared local lesson plans and clear team assignments for implementation at their home campus. Much time is needed for planning, organization, and communication strategies. Each team customizes the training specifically for its home site.

EASING THE TRANSITION CHALLENGE

WHAT IS S2S?

Imagine being a school age child waking up one morning realizing that you are in a strange new place, and, except for your family, you don't know anyone at all. You have no friends, you have no one to talk with and you know nothing about the school you are about to enter, the neighborhood you live in, and the community you just moved into.

Moving to a new place and adjusting to a new school, new teachers and finding new friends are daunting and scary experiences for most school age children, especially, if the child faces the experience more than once.

Believing that transitioning does not have to be difficult-----“just different,” S2S or Student-2-Student is a unique student led, school managed program that confronts the challenges of transition and provides relevant training that gives students the best possible transition experience.

A team of volunteer students, supervised by a school counselor, teacher or other school staff person, trains inbound and outbound transitioning students on three key transition subject areas: Academics, Relationships with other students, faculty and staff, and Finding the Way; learning about the campus, community and local culture. For the incoming students the team provides a forum for students to quickly feel welcomed, comfortable, included and accepted into their new school community. For the outgoing student, the team assists in helping outbound students better prepare for transitioning to another school.

S2S is a powerful program that uses student trainers to help change a transitioning student's focal point from what the student just lost, to what the student will gain. When students do not feel threatened by the process, and when someone understands them and shares in the process, it makes transition more acceptable. S2S guides students through their uncertain surroundings, offering, from a peer viewpoint, valued information, friendship and assistance in three areas that matter most too transitioning students.

How do I find my way around?

Who will I meet? How will I make friends? What about my relationships?

What do I need to know about the academic requirements at this school?

What are the needs of a transitioning student?

A transitioning student has some very real needs!

- A need to quickly receive and understand relevant information.
- A need for immediate positive peer relationships and someone to trust and talk with that can relate.
- A compelling need to feel welcomed, accepted and understood.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF S2S?

- To rapidly meet the transitioning students' critical needs.

- To quickly bring transitioning students necessary and relevant information from a credible, relatable source.....another student.
- To immediately establish a peer relationship thereby helping students to gain greater confidence, enhance their comfort level and increase their well being while they adjust to their new experiences.

S2S PROGRAM OBJECTIVE:

To provide the transitioning student that “critical edge” for a successful transition

WHY DOES S2S WORK?

- S2S Training meets real transitioning needs.
- S2S Leadership---Student led with close supervision
- S2S is timely
- S2S Curriculum based in research and validated.
- S2S Program commitment from the top down.

“Students just seem to be grateful to be getting any kind of attention and assistance upon their arrival at a new school.” S2S Site

“As a counselor I have given information from my office so students feel comfortable in their new setting. We have tried to help but the efforts always seem to fall short of what the students actually needed.” Test Site