

Engage Students to Embrace Civility

(Second Edition)

NANCY WILLARD, M.S., J.D.

PRAISE FOR ENGAGE STUDENTS TO EMBRACE CIVILITY

Nancy's approach is centered on using young people as agents of change who can powerfully transform their communities by modeling and sharing positive behaviors marked by kindness, civility, respect, inclusion, and meaningful resolution of hurtful situations. Nancy has painstakingly reviewed the relevant research and distilled the implications to a manageable and understandable set of guidelines that professionals working in schools can incorporate into their activities. *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* provides excellent insight to help support a positive school climate, to empower young people to reduce hurtful behavior and build positive relationships, and to improve the responses of principals in serious situations.

- Sameer Hinduja, Ph.D. and Justin W. Patchin, Ph.D. are co-directors of the Cyberbullying Research Center co-director of the Cyberbullying Research Center, co-author of *Bullying Today: Bullet Points and Best Practices*, *Bullying Beyond the Schoolyard: Preventing and Responding to Cyberbullying (2nd edition)*, *Words Wound: Delete Cyberbullying and Make Kindness Go Viral*.

Nancy Willard has integrated and translated the current research and knowledge on effective bullying prevention into a set of very useful and practical tools. *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* will help schools transform the problem of bullying into an opportunity for creating and sustaining a safer and more supportive learning environment for students, parents and staff.

- James Dillon, Director, The Center for Leadership and Bullying Prevention, author of *Reframing Bullying Prevention to Build Stronger School Communities*.

Nancy Willard's new book, *Engage Students to Embrace Civility*, stands out as highly relevant, comprehensive, and evidence-based. This book results from decades of research, practical experience, and personal passion. Unlike many others, Nancy's program is solution-focused, using young peoples' strengths as a real opportunity to make a difference while also building critical knowledge and skills. This book is a unique intersection of education, character development, school policy, and common sense. Nancy's challenges to the status quo are timely and welcomed. *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* is a must-read for anyone who works with youth and wants to engage and empower them to embrace civility more effectively.

- Dr. Russell A. Sabella is currently a Professor in the College of Education, Florida Gulf Coast University, and President of Sabella & Associates. He has published articles, magazine columns, and a book focusing on helping kids with their digital reputations and cyberbullying. Russ has also presented to students, school staff, and parents/caretakers throughout the country. He is Past President of the American Association of School Counselors.

Nancy Willard is a knowledgeable, caring and tough – in the best sense of the word! – advocate for all children. Combining educational and legal understandings, Nancy is an important leader in supporting and furthering

practically important school improvement efforts. *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* provides helpful research-based insight and practical guidance for school leaders to establish a more positive school climate and respond effectively to the more serious hurtful situations in a manner that is in accord with civil rights regulations.

- Jonathan Cohen, Ph.D., Co-president, International Observatory for School Climate and Violence Prevention; Adjunct Professor in Psychology and Education, Teachers College, Columbia University; President Emeritus and co-founder, National School Climate Center.

Nancy combines a genuine passion for justice for kids with an equal desire to help schools cope with the challenges they face and shift to a more positive approach. In *Engage Students to Embrace Civility* Nancy goes beyond the standard guidance provided to school leaders to address these concerns. Her insights, thoroughly backed by current research, show schools how to effectively engage students in leadership roles and foster a more positive school climate.

- Stuart Green, DMH, LCSW, Founding Board Member, Alliance for Social Emotional Learning in NJ; Associate Director, Overlook Family Medicine Residency Program; Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine, Sidney Kimmel Medical College of Thomas Jefferson University.