



Changing Perspectives

Kent & Queen Anne's County, Maryland

Mid-Year Educator Feedback

February 2021

Introduction

Changing Perspectives (www.ChangingPerspectivesNow.org) is a national, nonprofit organization that promotes social-emotional learning (SEL) to cultivate inclusive and equitable learning communities. Changing Perspectives engages all members in a school community to advance their thinking and practice around SEL, disability awareness, equity, and inclusion. Schools that partner with Changing Perspectives are offered an à la carte menu of options from which to choose the services that best meet their learning communities' needs. These resources include customizable curriculum materials, virtual/onsite coaching, goal-driven professional development, and parent programs.

This school year has been unprecedented in many ways. From COVID-19 to intense divisiveness around race, civil rights, politics, climate crises, and other issues. Schools are monitoring the impacts of the universal trauma of these matters on students of all ages. Many educators are having to teach in a way that they have not had to before. Every state, district, and school has addressed physical safety measures in their own ways. Therefore, when evaluating the data in this report, it is important to recognize that educators are working with limited bandwidth and in a variety of different situations.

This research report presents findings from a mid-year educator survey of Maryland partner schools that was administrated in January of 2021. The survey was sent to 40 educators working in nine schools in Kent and Queen Anne's counties who gained access to Changing Perspectives's resources and supports between September and November of 2020. Respondents were asked to rate their experiences with the program thus far in the school year. Given the program's highly customizable approach to design and classroom implementation, each educator's instructional choices and style shapes and influences student experiences and students' subsequent feedback about the program.

Sample Size

Table 1 shows the nine Maryland partner schools that worked with Changing Perspectives between September 2020 and December 2020. *Please note that our school partners list continues to grow and that the final year-end data report may include additional schools.*

Table 1. Participating Schools

School	Grades Served	District
Galena Elementary School	PK-5	Kent County Public Schools
HH Garnett Elementary	PK-5	Kent County Public Schools
Kent County High School	9-12	Kent County Public Schools
Kent County Middle School	6-8	Kent County Public Schools
Rock Hall Elementary School	PK-5	Kent County Public Schools
Centreville Elementary School	PK-2	Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Church Hill Elementary School	PK-4	Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Kent Island Elementary School	PK-2	Queen Anne's County Public Schools
Matapeake Elementary School	PK-5	Queen Anne's County Public Schools

Based on current school enrollment data, Changing Perspective has impacted the lives of 3,300 students.

Data was collected from 16 educators (40% return), representing seven of the nine schools (78%) during this evaluation period. Some educators noted that they did not feel that they had used enough Changing Perspectives materials at this point in the school year to complete the survey.

Findings

Overall, survey respondents were enthusiastic about the positive impacts that Changing Perspectives has had on their students, classrooms, and own professional skills development. The survey asked them to reflect on four aspects of the program:

1. The impacts Changing Perspectives has in helping to mitigate the unique trauma students have experienced this school year.
2. Their own professional practice as an educator in supporting the general social-emotional well-being of their students.
3. Students' engagement with Changing Perspectives.
4. Thoughts on future work with Changing Perspectives next year.

Question: The 2020-2021 school year has been unprecedented in many ways. Students may have experienced a variety of traumatic experiences. This has resulted in higher than usual needs in supporting their social and emotional well-being. Based on your current use of Changing Perspectives, rate the helpfulness of Changing Perspectives resources in supporting the needs of your students.

Table 2. Current School Year Impacts

Survey/Population	Extremely Helpful	Very Helpful	Moderately Helpful	Slightly Helpful	Not Helpful
N=16	19% (3)	56% (9)	25% (4)	0	0

Educators also shared:

- “Having a thought-out and applicable curriculum has helped with implementing SEL to students in various grade levels.”
- “[Changing Perspectives is helping me have] a better understanding of what students are going through...and helping them with feelings that they may never have experienced before.”

Question: Has Changing Perspectives improved your knowledge, skills, and interventions to support your students?

Table 3. Professional Practice

Survey/Population	Yes	No
N=16	94% (15)	6% (1)

Educators wrote:

- “[I have been] utilizing the resources that are already available versus having to do all the research.”
- “I love the different curriculum for each grade level. The curriculums are creative and easy to follow. The videos are easy to follow and practical as well.”
- “Changing Perspectives has provided me new strategies to use with my students.”

Question: Overall, how would you rate the educational value of Changing Perspectives?

Table 4. Educational Value

Survey/Population	Excellent	Good	Fair
N=16	19% (3)	75% (12)	6% (1)

Question: How engaged were your students in participating in Changing Perspectives activities?

Table 5. Student Engagement

Survey/Population	Extremely Engaged	Very Engaged	Moderately Engaged	Slightly Engaged	Not Engaged
N=15	6.5% (1)	40% (6)	47% (7)	6.5% (1)	0

Educators were pleased about the opportunities for student engagement:

- “The lessons in the 6-8 social emotional resources have been very helpful and the students have enjoyed the lessons.”
- “The students enjoy the combination of videos and the curriculum.”
- “The lesson was great, easy to follow, and students were eager to participate.”

Conclusions

Overall, from the small sample size, educators have found having access to Changing Perspectives curriculum resources and supports to be helpful during this unpredictable and challenging school year. Since fewer than half of the educators who received an invitation actually completed the survey, the data reported here represents a small slice of the full impact Changing Perspectives resources are having on student populations in these communities. It is expected that the sample size of respondents for the year-end survey will be much higher than this mid-year data collection process, allowing more time for educators to engage with Changing Perspectives resources and supports.

It should be noted that Kent County educators are using Changing Perspectives for the second year, while Queen Anne's County educators are engaging for the first time. Therefore, the type of support and familiarity with the program varies. It is inspiring and exciting to see that, even in the midst of a year that is as chaotic as 2020-2021 has been, educators are still committed to ensuring that their students' social-emotional well-being is being prioritized.