

# WHAT IS THE SAFE PASSAGE SAFETY MODEL?

INTERRUPTING THE TRANSMISSION OF THE DISEASE OF  
VIOLENCE BY CHANGING CULTURAL NORMS

## PILLAR 1: DETECT AND INTERRUPT

- Communicate any potential conflicts within the school community
- Attempt to mediate any known conflicts within the school community
- Identify and communicate any social media content that would increase the risk level within the school community



## PILLAR 2: IDENTIFY AND TREAT HIGH RISK INDIVIDUALS



- Connect the students with services and resources from the community
- Mentor and develop relationships to get a desired change in behavior from some of the highest at-risk individuals in the community
- Provide activities outside of school hours

## PILLAR 3: CHANGE COMMUNITY NORMS

- Reduce the number of students involved when fights occur in the school community
- Change the community norm of recording fights to post on social media
- Spread positive messages and norms within the school community



## PILLAR 4: PROVIDE IDENTITIES



- Support and promote activities and organizations that create identities inside or outside of the school community
- Promote school sports, activities, and events
- Promote after school clubs and activities
- Promote trade programs, technology, and career resources
- Connect students with identities that are known to produce good outcomes

# SAFE PASSAGE TEAM

Dr. Danielle King: Director of Safe Passage,  
Operation Better Block

Dr. Nina Sacco: Assistant Superintendent,  
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Jason Rivers: School Intervention and Violence  
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## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website:

<https://pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/safe-passage>



# SAFE PASSAGE OVERVIEW

Safe Passage is an anti-violence program run through a partnership between Operation Better Block, the City of Pittsburgh, and Pittsburgh Public Schools, with funding from the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency (PCCD), Buhl Foundation, Roy Hunt Foundation, and Eden Hall Foundation.

Using a public health approach, our goal is to reduce the transmission of the disease of violence among Pittsburgh Public Schools students and their communities.

Originally piloted at Perry in 2021, the program is currently being implemented at six Pittsburgh Public Schools.

This is done through training our Safe Passage Coordinators and Youth Safety Ambassadors with the Safe Passage Safety Model. Collectively, they serve as violence interrupters and identify at-risk youth to help them join the peace-keeping solution. School communities are also connected to resources ranging from financial support to job searches.



*“Framing violence as a disease is a practical strategy for improving patient outcomes.”*

Dr. David Milia, M.D.



## IMPLEMENTATION

Safe Passage is currently being implemented at six Pittsburgh Public Schools:

**Allderdice High School**

**Brashear High School**

**Obama 6-12**

**Perry High School**

**UPrep 6-12**

**Westinghouse Academy**

## OUR WORK

### Violence Interruption

Safety Ambassadors and Safe Passage Coordinators are trained to detect, interrupt, and treat violence when it occurs in their school or is at risk of occurring. Their response is dependent upon the determined level of severity.

### School-Based Programming

Safe Passage Coordinators create and support programs based on the needs of their school community to teach Safety Ambassadors life skills to support their personal, academic, and professional growth.

All programs are created in alignment with the Safe Passage Safety Model. Some programs include Creating Peace, Youth Peace Summits, and Young Men's Group.

### Positive Identity Development

Safe Passage connects youth to positive identity building activities, programs and resources.

Community resources are housed and sent through [NewEra412.com](http://NewEra412.com)