

# Agreement to Mediate

## Student Led Peer Mediation Program

### What is Mediation?

Mediation is a process in which a neutral person, who does not take sides (known as the mediator) helps create a space where community members can discuss their conflict(s) and try to reach an agreement. A mediator is not a judge or a decision maker. Mediation is a **voluntary process**. This means that both parties must agree to participate in mediation, and the mediation can be stopped at any time by either party or by the mediator for any reason. The mediator is available to answer any questions about this Agreement and will ask you to sign this Agreement before starting the mediation.

### Mediator Responsibilities

Your mediator went through a special recruitment process and training program. They are well-equipped to help you discuss this conflict and come to an agreement.

Your mediator....

- **Cannot give you academic, legal, or personal advice during the mediation.**
- **Does not represent you or the other party.** The mediator is neutral, which means they are not on anyone's side. The mediator does not think one person is "right" or that one party should "win." The mediator's goal is that the parties reach an agreement together.
- **Cannot answer questions for you or claim to know what you want.**
- **Cannot decide what you should do to resolve the conflict.** The mediator may make suggestions about next steps, but it is always your choice what you do.
- **Cannot keep secrets for you.** The mediation is *confidential*, which means the mediator will not tell anyone else what the parties decided or what was talked about. If you or the other party says that you want to physically hurt yourself, you want to hurt other people, or that someone you know is being hurt or abused in some way, *the mediator is required to tell a school administrator.*
- **Will tell the school basic information about the mediation.** The mediator is required to report who came to the mediation and if an agreement was reached. The mediator will not talk or gossip about the mediation to friends and family.

### Party Responsibilities

By signing this agreement, the parties agree that they will....

1. **Listen** to each other and work to understand the other person's perspectives;
2. **Not interrupt** each other so that everyone will have an opportunity to speak;
3. **Not use name-calling or abusive language;**
4. **Not make a recording of any kind** during the mediation. This includes recording on a phone, on social media, or any other form.

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#### 5. Anything else mutually agreed upon by both parties.

#### My School's Responsibilities

By signing this agreement, I understand that my school's top priorities are my health, safety, and education. My school believes that student-led peer mediation is a powerful way to address conflicts. I understand that my mediator, my administration, and my teachers may need to make changes to this agreement before I mediate. I trust that my school will communicate with me throughout the mediation process and help me address my conflicts.

#### Confidentiality

This mediation is confidential. That means that the mediator will not keep notes or take recordings or videos of the mediation. The mediator will not talk about the mediation except to school administration when necessary. I understand the mediator might talk about the details of the mediation with an administrator in order to protect the parties' safety or health, become a better mediator, and learn strategies to navigate new situations. I trust that my mediator will not share details to any friends or anyone else in my school.

By signing this Agreement, I acknowledge that I understand and agree to all terms of this Agreement to Mediate.

Party Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Name: \_\_\_\_\_