

Game Change: The Patriots Anti-Violence Partnership Frequently Asked Questions

Game Change: The Patriots Anti-Violence Partnership is a first-of-its-kind program. As such, we anticipate that participants may have questions. If your question is not answered below, please feel free to contact Margie Pullo at 617-963-2700 or Margie.Pullo@state.ma.us.

1. What is the anticipated timeline?

- a. Winter/Spring 2016: Phase One – Regional Trainings
 - i. Winter 2016: Schools will send two personnel to participate in a highly interactive three-day training in their area. Participants will be trained as trainers in Northeastern University’s Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) curriculum and will return to their schools equipped to train others in the program.
 - ii. Spring 2016: Applications will be available to participate in Phase Two.
- b. Winter 2016: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Service Organization Selection
 - i. One domestic violence/sexual assault service organization (DV/SA Provider) will be selected in each of the six regions to provide ongoing support for participating schools.
- c. Fall 2016: Phase Two – Intensive Pilot
 - i. 30 of the original 98 schools will be selected to have MVP trainers travel to the school and train students and staff directly.
- d. Ongoing: Evaluation
 - i. Evaluation of the Game Change/MVP Initiative will be ongoing and will be directed by Dr. Ron Slaby, working closely with Dr. Kim Storey and Dr. Robert Apsler. Dr. Apsler is the co-founder of Social Science Research and Evaluation, Inc. (SSRE), a Massachusetts-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization (www.ssre.org).

2. Is there a cost to participate?

- a. No. Both phases of Game Change are free to schools.

3. My school already has a healthy relationship and/or violence prevention initiative.

Will participating in Game Change make us change that?

- a. No. Game Change and the MVP program are meant to supplement and support the good work already happening in many schools across our state. Online resources will be available for MVP trained faculty and staff in how best to adapt and implement the curriculum in their school community.

4. My school already has a relationship with MVP. Will that affect our participation?

- a. If your school already has staff trained in MVP, or has trainings scheduled, please let us know. Game Change is an opportunity to expand your current relationship with MVP.

5. How do the Phase One - Regional Trainings work?

- a. Each school will be assigned to a regional training location and will send two school personnel to participate.

- b. Understanding that gender-based violence is often mistakenly seen as a “women’s issue”, we suggest that schools send both a male and female faculty member to the three-day training. By selecting a male and female to attend the institute, each school will develop a mixed-gender training team that will illustrate the importance of both men and women working together on this issue. Also, by sending a male faculty member to be trained, schools will illustrate the importance of men being role models to boys in addressing gender-based violence.
- c. Regional trainings will be held on three consecutive weekdays from 9:00am to 5:00pm.
- d. During the first part of the training, individuals will complete the program to experience the curriculum, particularly the unique approach to bystander theory, for themselves.
- e. In the second component of the training, participants will practice facilitating MVP’s program with other participants. MVP’s trainers will guide the participants throughout this process and provide examples of situations they will likely encounter when administering this program at their school. Time will also be offered for participants to consider how to adapt MVP’s curriculum so that it best meets the needs of their students, the school, and the community.
- f. Lastly, participants will develop action plans for implementing the curriculum in their school and community.

6. What are the expectations for our school during Phase One?

- a. Each school participating in Phase One will be expected to do the following:
 - i. Send two school personnel (such as: educators, guidance, mental health professionals, administrators, coaches) to the regional training in their area.
 - ii. At the conclusion of the training, the school personnel will prepare a plan to implement the MVP curriculum during the 2016-2017 school year, taking into consideration any adaptations necessary to meet the needs of their school.
 - 1. Some examples of where/how the curriculum may be implemented include, but are not limited to:
 - a. English or Health classes (the MVP curriculum is commensurate with state standards in both English and Health)
 - b. Faculty, staff and coach trainings
 - c. Afterschool clubs
 - d. Social science, literature and/or health classes
 - e. Peer leadership initiatives
 - f. Parent awareness events and/or presentations
 - iii. Participate in the independent evaluation process by completing electronic surveys in a timely manner. The electronic surveys will ask participants to rate their satisfaction with the training and its utility, whether or not they experienced an increase in knowledge of particular aspects of the MVP program content, and participants’ likelihood of acting as helpful bystanders.
 - iv. Consider applying for Phase Two.

7. What happens in Phase Two?

- a. Once the 30 schools are selected for Phase Two, MVP will help each of the 30 schools develop a timeline for implementation of the MVP action plan for fall 2016.
- b. This process will include a presentation to all school faculty, staff and coaches that will raise awareness of relationship violence and explain the MVP program.
- c. Schools will select 30 students to assist with implementation. These peer leaders will be trained with the goal of preventing physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual assault and heterosexism/homophobia in their school communities.

8. What will be the role of the DV/SA Provider in Phase Two?

- a. For a sustainable violence prevention initiative to be successful, schools must be supported as they begin to implement the MVP program. By partnering with local domestic violence and sexual assault service organizations trained in MVP, schools will have additional adults to assist in the facilitation of the curriculum and they will also have access to counseling and intervention services. We also recognize that as schools begin to utilize the curriculum, disclosures of violence will likely arise. Having adults involved in the program who are trained in crisis response and counseling will be critical to student well-being. Whether students require counseling, advocacy or other survivor services, DV/SA providers can be an invaluable resource to participating schools as they seek to implement the MVP curriculum.

9. Is applying for Phase 2 required?

- a. No, schools that participate in Phase One are not required to apply for Phase Two but we strongly encourage you to consider applying for these additional school-based support services.

10. What other supports are available to schools?

- a. Through the Game Change program, MVP will provide all 98 schools with access to online technical assistance through the MVP Clubhouse, an online learning community for people trained in the curriculum. The MVP Clubhouse is designed for individuals trained in MVP to learn and share their best practices, ask questions, provide answers, promote collaboration and foster innovation in preventing gender based violence. The MVP Clubhouse will be a place for MVP staff to provide technical assistance, offer the latest bystander prevention approaches and share updated curriculum, tips on implementation, best practices, videos and other training materials.