

“Persistent waves of violence in our schools require that we apply as many resources as possible to prevent youth violence. We use mediation skills to prevent violence in our nation’s schools.”

## Is Youth Violence A Concern In Your Community?

Youth violence is a serious problem in all communities across our country and in all walks of life. It is a problem that does not differentiate between gender, religion, race or socioeconomic status. It exists in urban, suburban and rural areas. Persistent waves of violence in our schools require that, as a society, we apply as many resources as possible to prevent youth violence. With funding from Congress, the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service (FMCS) has designed a program that utilizes mediation skills to prevent violence in our nation's schools.

## What Techniques Do We Use?

Today's youths are technologically savvy, using computers in their school surroundings and at home. Technology is a highly effective tool for communicating with children to help them learn conflict resolution skills. Not every child owns a computer, but most children have access to computers in their schools, public libraries or community centers. With the FMCS Internet-based program, they can log on anywhere.

We use a system called TAGS (Technology Assisted Group Solutions), an innovative group communication and problem-solving tool. The TAGS system provides:

- Anonymity, so that barriers such as differences in gender, class, education level and age are minimized.
- Real-time synchronous or asynchronous meetings, which increases flexibility of participation.
- A network of local and national resources working together to share information and experiences.
- Instant feedback on data submitted so immediate steps can be taken to resolve disputes and prevent incidents of youth violence.

Children can "log on to cool off" at any time and from any location, while school-based stakeholders and community leaders collaborate to develop solutions to problems. Combining cutting-edge technology tools with expert facilitation, we can help community leaders identify risk factors, resources and solutions for effective violence prevention.

## Why FMCS?

As the country's leading organization dedicated to conflict resolution, FMCS has assets that are unique and critical to the success of this program:

- Expert facilitation of group problem-solving
- Highly skilled and trained mediators
- Experience in designing conflict resolution systems

### Why FMCS?

“With a history of more than a half century of providing mediation and facilitation services, FMCS has more collective experience in dispute resolution than any other agency of government.”

### Who Are Our Community Partners?

Since receiving funding for this initiative, FMCS has partnered with 10 communities across the country to implement our technology-based approach to youth violence prevention. These communities include:

- Tucson, AZ
- Los Angeles, CA
- Des Plaines, IL
- Jefferson County, KY
- Cleveland, OH
- Gallia County, OH
- Mill Creek, PA
- Jackson, MS
- Las Vegas, NV
- Denton, TX

Community participation has been significant. The collaboration has helped children and their families and has assisted law enforcement agencies.

Ask your local mediator about the Youth Violence Prevention Initiative. If you feel your community could benefit from the FMCS Youth Initiative, or you would like to become a community stakeholder, contact us through our Web site at [www.FMCS.gov](http://www.FMCS.gov) or call 202-606-3723.

# FMCS

National Office  
2100 K Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20427  
Phone: (202) 606-8100  
Fax: (202) 606-4251

### mission

The primary responsibility of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service is to promote sound and stable labor relations through a variety of mediation and conflict resolution services. We mediate collective bargaining negotiations, provide other forms of alternative dispute resolution services outside of the collective bargaining context, provide training courses to improve the workplace relationship, and refer arbitrators for settlement of contract application disputes. FMCS mediators are widely dispersed throughout the country. For more information about the Service, its locations, and its programs, please visit our Web site at [www.FMCS.gov](http://www.FMCS.gov).