

# Restorative School Mediation

"My teacher hates me!"

"My student just doesn't care!"

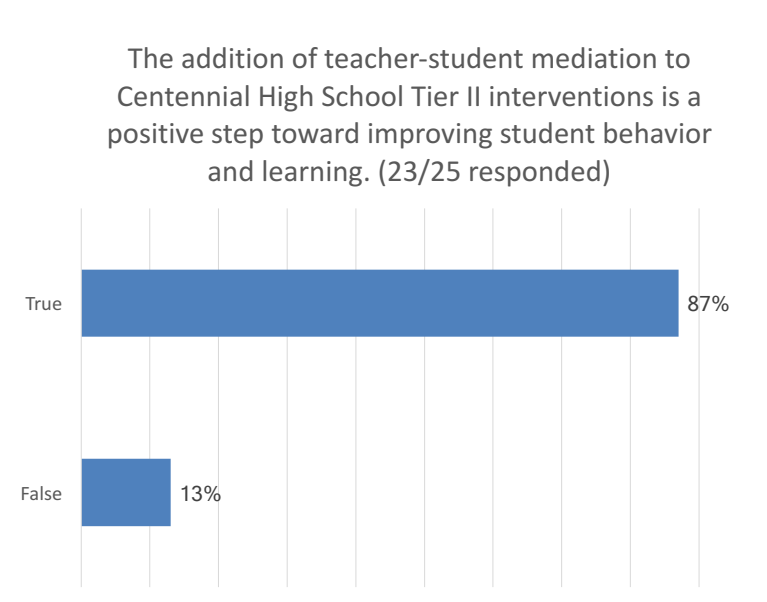
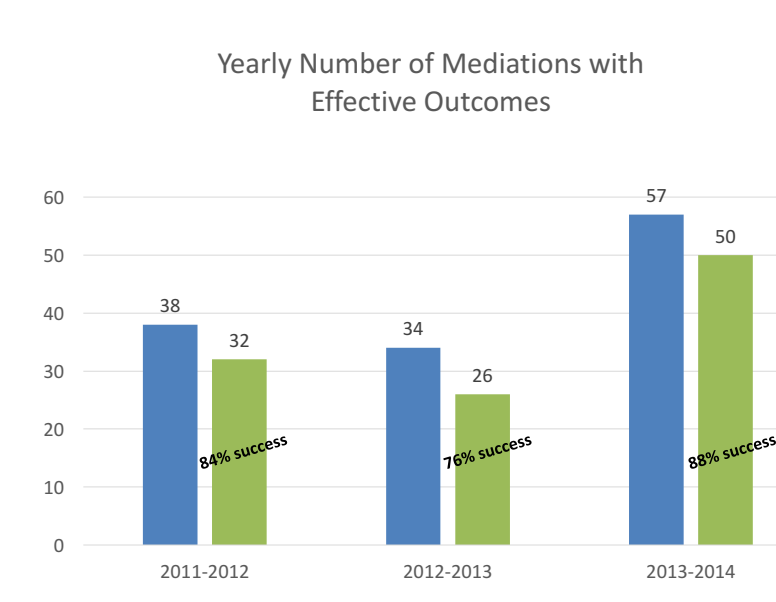
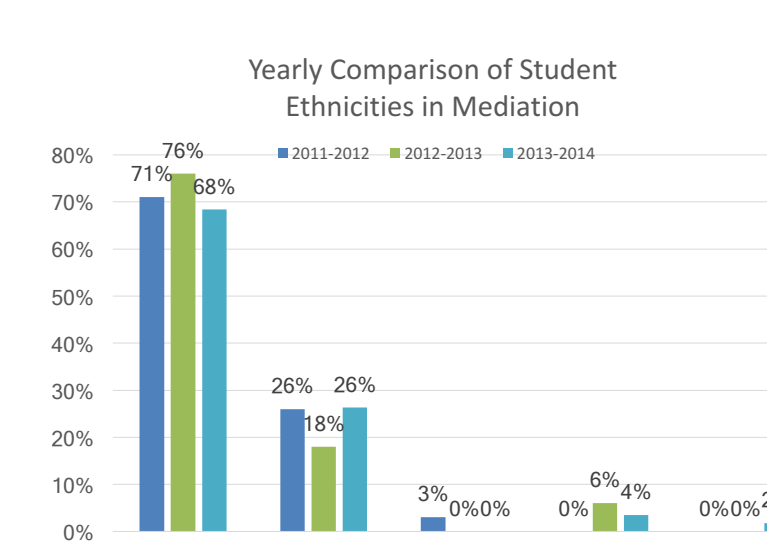
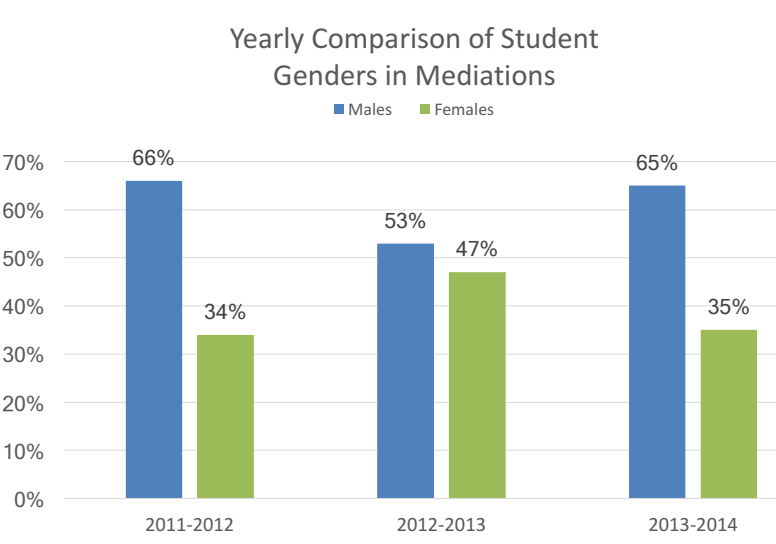
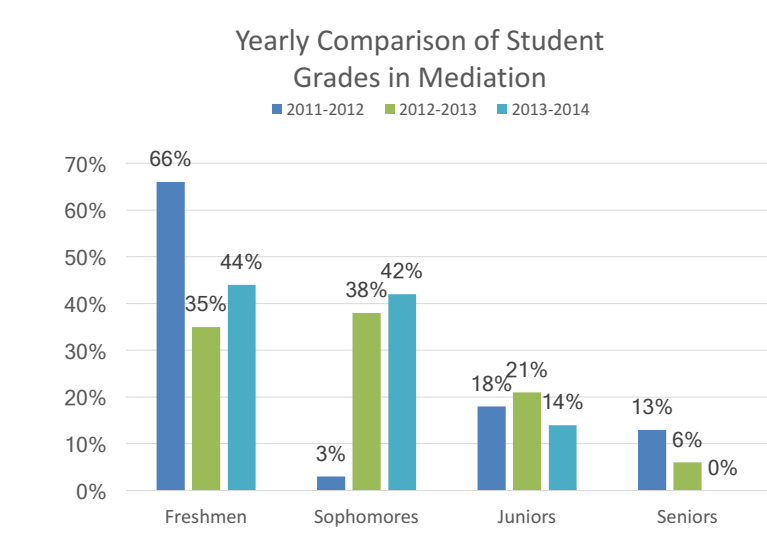
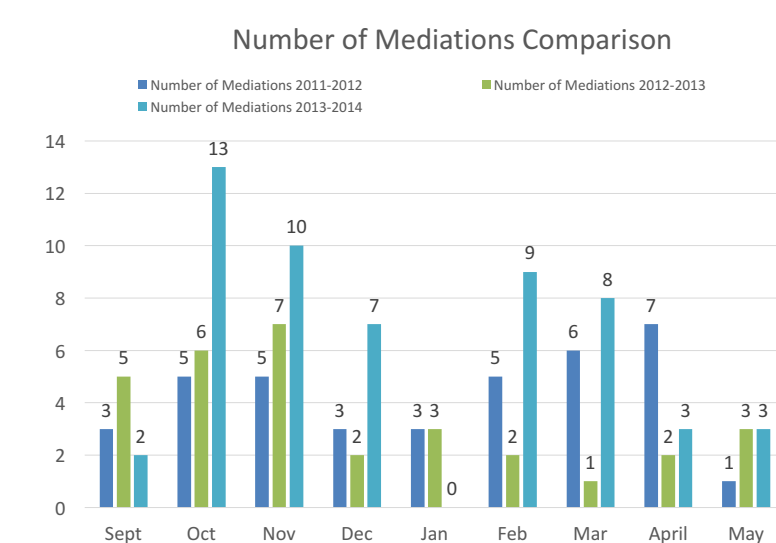
"My teacher is racist!"

"My student just cursed at me!"

**Unresolved conflicts in school** build barriers to learning, including low motivation, lack of focus, and disruptive behaviors that remove students from the classroom. School districts are seeking restorative interventions that build positive school relationships and model social skills. Data show mediation as highly effective in repairing relationships and boosting understanding across racial lines. The goal of mediation is to restore the respect so teachers can teach and students can learn.

In *Restore the Respect: How to Mediate School Conflicts and Keep Students Learning*, School Psychologist Ondine Gross shares evidence-based restorative mediation techniques for use with teachers and students in Grades K-12. Gross shows how to implement a teacher-student mediation program, conduct successful mediations, and collect and monitor data to measure the effectiveness of the interventions. She also shows how to mediate conflicts between students to reduce aggressive and bullying behaviors. Finally, Gross shows the benefits of mediation to improve adult relationships in schools.

## Three Years of Teacher-Student Mediation at Centennial High School in Champaign, IL:



## What occurs in an ideal classroom:

- Students and teachers treat each other with sensitivity and civility.
- Students are valued as individuals and encouraged to participate without fear of put-downs from the teacher or other students.
- When conflicts arise, teachers and students effectively communicate and problem solve. (Danielson & McGreal, 2000)

## When classrooms are less than ideal:

- Black males and students with disabilities are the most heavily impacted by discipline policies that remove them from the classroom (Klotz, 2014).
- Differences in how teachers discipline black and white students contribute to racial disparities and spur repeated student misbehavior among black students (Okonofua & Eberhardt, 2015).

## Why mediate with teachers and students:

- Enhances student achievement
- Boosts mutual understanding
- Breaks negative cycles
- Promotes social-emotional learning
- Provides an individualized intervention
- Is efficient and free of charge
- Fosters understanding, trust, and empathy
- Benefits all members of a school community

### References:

Danielson, C., & McGreal, T.L. (2000). *Teacher evaluation to enhance professional practice*. Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.

Klotz, M.B. (2014). IDEA in practice: Federal guidance on school discipline practices: Halting the school-to-prison pipeline. *Communiqué*, 42, (6), 27.

Gross, O. (2016). *Restore the respect: How to mediate school conflicts and keep students learning*. Baltimore: Brookes Publishing Co.

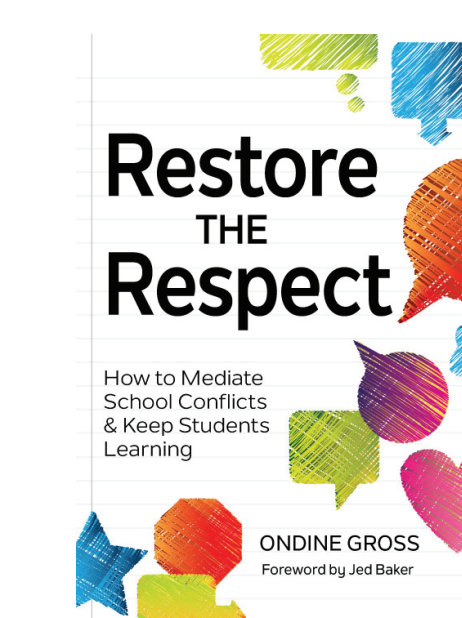
Okonofua, J. A. & Eberhardt, J. A. (2015). Two-strikes: Race and disciplinary action in K-12 schooling. *Psychological Science*. Vol. 26, issue 5, page (s) 617-624.



Ondine Gross, M.S., Ed.M. is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. She has worked in public school settings for more than 30 years.

She invites you to contact her about Restorative School Mediation!

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Ondine Gross' book *Restore the Respect: How to Mediate School Conflicts & Keep Students Learning*, published in 2016 by Brookes Publishing Co. is available from brookespublishing.com, amazon.com, or wherever books are sold.