

# **Facts**

**Number of years:** 16 years

**Number of schools trained:** 955

**Number of educators trained:** 1668

**Number of states:** 33

**Number of Canadian provinces:** 4

## **Students Impacted each year**

In North America: 600,000

All incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders

20% of a school's 8<sup>th</sup> graders

35% of a school's overall population

# **FAQs**

**What makes WEB different from other middle level orientation and transition programs that are provided by outside sources or companies?**

Four factors make the WEB program unique.

1. The WEB training is designed to be a train the trainers conference. Over the three day Basic Training, the WEB Coordinators are given the knowledge, skills and tools to fully implement and run a WEB program at their school. As a result, WEB is a self sustaining program that continues to run year after year without the need to hire an outside source to return.
2. WEB is a year long program, not just an orientation program. The connection between the WEB Leaders (members of the 8th grade) and the 6th graders begins at the orientation and continues throughout the year within a structure to intentionally support the 6th graders.
3. WEB focuses on selecting and developing leaders from a cross section of the student body. If you were to take a snapshot of your WEB Leaders, it would be a mini portrait of your student body, reflecting the variety of social, ethnic and language groups at your school.

4. The WEB training methodology for both staff and students is among the best in the nation. 95% of participants consistently rate the training among the best professional development experiences of their career and students regularly cite the WEB training as one of the most important of their middle school experience. WEB combines proven techniques from the traditional classroom with best practices in brain-based learning, collaborative structures, experiential learning and intrinsic motivation to create a learning environment that is rich, collegial and powerful.

### **Is WEB an anti-bullying program?**

In an indirect way, WEB is one of the best anti-bullying programs on the market. While the primary intent of WEB is to transition 6<sup>th</sup> graders into middle school and contribute to their overall success and achievement, a natural by product is creating a school climate that does not tolerate bullying. WEB gives 8<sup>th</sup> graders permission and skills to move from being bystanders to upstanders as they develop relationships with their 6<sup>th</sup> graders. As a result, your school has positive role models in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class that look out for 6<sup>th</sup> graders who are the most commonly bullied students at a middle school.

### **What is the cost to get trained?**

The cost is \$2295 per person, all inclusive, meaning the cost of the training includes room, food, and materials at the three day Basic Training as well as including the cost of a fourth day of training that takes place the following fall, called the Follow Up Conference.

### **What are the start up and ongoing costs for WEB?**

Cost for attending the three day Basic Training is the greatest expense of the program. Once a school has made its initial investment in training their Coordinators, the ongoing costs are minimal. The must have costs are: t-shirts for the WEB Leaders and Coordinators, copy costs for Leader training handbooks, minimal supplies for the activities and nametags for the Leaders and 6th graders. Costs for the year long program that runs throughout the school year will vary, depending on the number and type of activities. We estimate that a middle school with a 6th grade class of 300 could run a very solid program on \$1200 per year and that number could be dramatically reduced with community donations.

### **Do we have to pay royalties for each year that we use WEB?**

No, once a person has gone through the entire three day Basic Training, that person is certified to run the program at that school with no additional payment to the Boomerang Project.

### **How many people should we get trained?**

We recommend that you train a minimum of two people per school. Still better is to use the ratio of one person trained for each 125 incoming students. So, for a 6th grade class of 300, we would recommend that you train two to three people. The challenge you will face in training too few people is that if all trained people leave the school, the school cannot continue to run the WEB program as it is a trademarked program and requires a certified person to run it. In addition, because the program reaches so many students, having 3-4 staff members trained will allow the greatest reach. Many schools start with 2-4 people and then build their teams through the following years in order to improve its program as well as provide more staff members to be involved in positive interaction with the students and school community.

### **Is WEB a certification program?**

Yes. Once a person has completed a three day Basic Training, they are certified to run the WEB program at any school at which they are employed. If they move to a new school, the certification goes with them and they are eligible to implement a WEB program or contribute to an already existing program at their new school.

### **Can I get college credit for the training?**

Yes. We have a partnership with Chapman University where you can earn college credit after completing each training that you attend.

### **Where have people previously obtained funds for WEB?**

Schools fund WEB in a number of ways ranging from site budgets to district budgets to parent organizations to grants. Schools most commonly fund WEB with either Staff Development or Site Council line item allocated spending, however WEB supports so many different aspects of a successful school that different programs have been funded by any number of local, state and federal programs and grants. WEB is ideal for many grants because it is highly sustainable once implemented at a school. Please see "Funding Options" on the Boomerang Project homepage for ideas.

### **What research do you have that supports the success of WEB?**

WEB is the most studied and researched single transition program in the country. We collect data from individual school sites that use a before and after approach for some of their more important indicators of success including grades, discipline, connection to school and feelings of safety. With the correct implementation, WEB has also worked for several schools to increase test scores and lower drop-out rates. Because the implementation of WEB varies dramatically as schools customize the program to meet their needs, we do not have an overall study of the program's broad impact but are in the process of creating it.