



PAL® PEER ASSISTANCE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The following standards of practice were adapted from the National Association of Peer Programs. They are the essential foundations for an effective and sustaining PAL® Peer Assistance Leadership program.

- 1. Certification (Required):** A minimum of one advisor who is actively involved in the program must be trained by the Orange County Department of Education staff in the appropriate grade level curriculum (elementary, middle, or high school).
- 2. Peer Leader Recruitment:** The PAL program is comprised of a diverse group of students; peer leaders should reflect the makeup of the entire student body.
- 3. Student Training:** Once selected, peer leaders are provided with ongoing training using the PAL Advisor Manual.
- 4. Service Delivery:** Peer leaders should be provided with structured opportunities to engage in a variety of meaningful and productive helping roles.
- 5. Supervision:** Peer leaders receive ongoing supervision from program staff.
- 6. Evaluation:** Program advisor and peer leaders document program-related activities and services and examine program effectiveness to determine areas for improvement.
- 7. Public Relations:** Program advisor and peer leaders engage in an ongoing effort to keep external and internal supporters and potential program recipients informed about the benefits and accomplishments of the program.
- 8. Long-Range Planning:** Program advisor and school administration ensures that the program is sustained and infused into the school culture. Key factors include:
 - Staffing:** In addition to the certified PAL advisor, at least one individual within the school site should be familiar with the curriculum and coordination responsibilities in the event of staffing changes.
 - Peer Ownership:** Peer leaders feel directly responsible for the success and sustainment of the program.

