



# Evaluation of the MBF Child Safety Matters® Program: A Randomized Controlled Trial

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**Background** In 2018, Georgia passed Senate Bill 401 requiring public schools to implement age-appropriate sexual abuse and assault awareness and prevention education for students in grades K-9. Additional research is needed to identify programs that are effective in Georgia schools. In this study, completed during the 2018-2019 school year, we implemented the MBF Child Safety Matters® curriculum (CSM) in Georgia elementary (K-5) schools and evaluated its effectiveness with a number of outcomes.

**Methods** All study procedures were approved by Georgia State University’s Institutional Review Board and participating Georgia counties. Opt-out or opt-in forms for both the curriculum and research study were sent with students to parents. Inclusion criteria included schools which have never implemented the curriculum before and were not currently using another maltreatment/ bullying prevention curriculum and elementary schools serving grades K – 5 in the state of Georgia.

Within each school, two or more classrooms per grade were randomly assigned to treatment or wait-list control.

Children completed an assessment at pre- and post-test (25 items), approximately 4 weeks apart. Children in the treatment group received the *MBF Child Safety Matters* curriculum by a trained facilitator, implemented in two sessions.

A research assistant observed the implementation of MBF to gauge fidelity using an 11-item checklist. Mean fidelity was 86% with a range from 81% to 100%.

## School Demographics

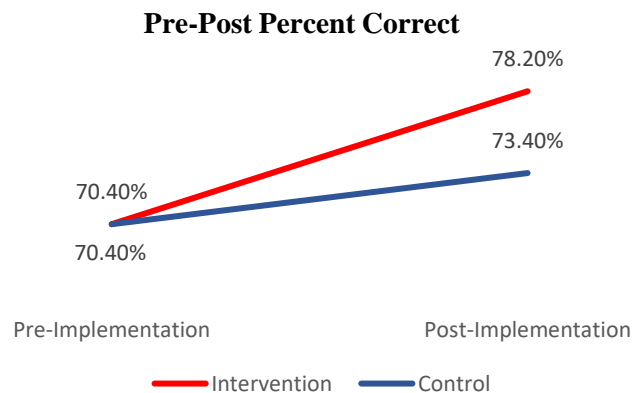
	Race/Ethnicity				
	White	African American	Asian	Two+ races	Hispanic
School 1	77.5%	8.40%	2.5%	2.2%	9.1%
School 2	79.8%	7.40%	4.4%	3.1%	1.3%
School 3	22%	63.9%	1.6%	4.6%	7.5%
School 4	1.6%	95.5%	0.1%	1.1%	1.5%
School 5	3.2%	84.9%	0%	2.2%	9.5%
School 6	5.1%	80.3%	0.5%	2.6%	11.3%

## Enrollment and Participation Rates

	Total N	N on roster	Participation rate
School 1	295	329	89.7%
School 2	199	216	92.1%
School 3	232	264	87.9%
School 4	551	625	88.2%
School 5	747	828	90.2%
School 6	392	720	54.4%

## Results

- The study sample size at pre-test was N=2,414 (1219 Control and 1195 Treatment), and was N=2,260 at post (1101 Control and 1159 Treatment).
- At pre-test, there was no difference between condition groups in students’ knowledge of potentially risky or unsafe situations.
- After receiving the MBF Child Safety Matters lessons, students in the treatment group had significantly higher scores than students in the control group.



**Summary** Findings indicated that children receiving the *MBF Child Safety Matters*® curriculum showed greater increases in knowledge than children not receiving the curriculum. Importantly, there was no differential gain in knowledge by child sex, by grade, or by school. Thus, the knowledge gains appear robust across types of students and implementations. The gains observed here were short term gains and it remains unclear from this study whether such gains would be maintained over time.

The Monique Burr Foundation for Children is committed to ongoing research to evaluate the effectiveness of their Prevention Education Programs. View the entire report at [www.mbfpreventioneducation.org](http://www.mbfpreventioneducation.org).