



Summer 2023

THE FIERCE URGENCY OF NOW

Scaling Peace Literacy in the US and around the globe

Peace Literacy offers an urgently needed reframing of both peace and education, created by **Paul K. Chappell**, a West Point Graduate and Iraq War veteran. Chappell grew up in a violent household in Alabama, the son of a Korean mother and a Black father who was himself a veteran of the Korean and Vietnam wars. These experiences drove Chappell to forge a new understanding of war, peace, rage, trauma, and our shared humanity. Descended from slaves in Virginia and Alabama, he continues the mission of the civil rights leaders with whom he trained after leaving the military ([see **peaceliteracy.org/origin-story**](https://peaceliteracy.org/origin-story)). Chappell is the founder and Executive Director of the Peace Literacy Institute (PLI), supported by a team of educators working in preK-12 and higher education, designing curriculum to increase our collective literacy in peace.



As King said, **“We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now.** In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency.” King’s message is more relevant than ever. Peace Literacy becomes more urgently needed every day. The PLI team is currently focused on empowering educators and their students with the skills needed to **confront** the root causes of aggression and mistrust in our society, **transform** global problems into greater peace and justice, and **navigate** rapidly advancing technology with discernment and grace.

To respond to the fierce urgency, we are building on long-standing relationships with educators based in Cleveland to organize a Summer Teaching Institute, **as part of a multi-year training and data-gathering project**, that will create a strong foundation for scaling up Peace Literacy nationally and globally.



According to the U.S. Army, it costs \$55,000-\$74,000 to train an army recruit (which does not prepare that recruit to train anyone else). **For \$4,000, PLI can train an educator** not only to use Peace Literacy skills in their classroom, school, and broader community, but also to teach Peace Literacy skills to hundreds and possibly thousands of students throughout their career. Bullets and bombs only address symptoms of problems. Peace Literacy offers proactive protection by confronting the root causes of violence, injustice, and trauma. You can help **sponsor** an educator from our first cohort. We will keep you informed about how your donation is putting **peace in action** for educators and their students.

PROPOSAL OVERVIEW

We are excited and honored to share with you the proposal details and invite your partnership on this critically important journey.



Through our Summer Institute, educators first learn to **model** Peace Literacy Skills via a 5-week self-paced online class, and then they learn to **teach** those skills via a 3-day in-person retreat focused on engaging and accessible curriculum for their students. Beginning in **summer 2023**, educators in our first cohort will focus on Peace Literacy skills for **Navigating Aggression and Cultivating Calm**.



Throughout the following school year, we will provide follow-up training and check-ins, as well as gather data and feedback to inform a full-scale IRB study the following year with student and faculty partners, sponsored by our assessment team at Oregon State University. In **summer 2024** we will add new cohorts and introduce additional skills and curriculum for **Navigating Human Needs, Trauma, and the Tech Tsunami**.

Our **tech focus** builds on our Peace Literacy curriculum in VR, currently being piloted with partners in the ACCESS program for youth-placed-at-risk in Orange County, CA. We view AI and VR as significant peace issues. Smart phones and social media have disrupted every aspect of our society, but this will be a ripple compared to the tsunami that AI and VR will unleash. To counterbalance our rapidly escalating technological power, Peace Literacy helps students develop their capacity for conscience, empathy, and discernment in ways that escalate the power of their humanity.



“The PLI virtual reality training has unlimited potential to engage our most challenging students with meaningful subject matter. PLI presents an opportunity to get in touch with their inner negative tendencies and grow as individuals. This could be the most engaging Social Emotional Learning I have seen in my 25 years as an educator.”

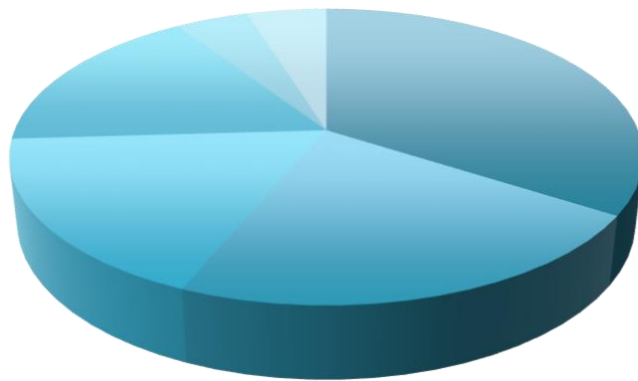
Vern Burton, Assistant Superintendent, OCDE ACCESS program



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Budget for Year 1 = \$270,000

We have begun a broad-based, multi-faith fundraising initiative to raise \$270,000 for the launch year. Click [here](#) to sponsor educators in this critically important training opportunity. Please note “sponsorship” with your donation. We will keep you informed about how your donation is putting **peace in action** for educators and their students.



- Curriculum Development \$92K
- Program Support \$48K
- Curricular Materials \$12K
- Data Analysis \$60K
- Educator Stipends \$45K
- Retreat + Follow-up \$13K



Using Peace Literacy curriculum, “students learn to make conscious choices about their own behavior and their interactions with others based on skills such as empathy, compassion, creativity, and discipline. Students also learn to find healthy and productive ways to fulfill their basic needs of expression, belonging, meaning, and self-worth, particularly when those needs have been impacted by trauma. As a teacher and counselor educator, I can say the Peace Literacy curriculum created by Chappell and his colleagues is the most comprehensive I have seen. We will look back one day and know that Chappell’s vision for the future, his path for our achieving it, and his prescription for us as a species were clearly inspired and prophetic.”

Nathalie Kees, PhD, School of Education, Colorado State University

We are excited and honored to have your partnership on this journey.