

# History of Voices

## History of Voices Institute

Voices Institute has over 25 years of experience developing, implementing, and evaluating curriculum, professional development, and comprehensive school reform strategies that seek to integrate the teaching and modeling of transformative social values and skills into the content areas and school climate.

- 1992: Established a Comprehensive Community-Based Drug and Violence Prevention Program in Jamaica Plain. The Boston Public Schools and Family, Friends, and Community received a U.S. Dept. of Education Drug-Free Schools grant to develop a K-12 comprehensive drug and violence prevention program in the Jamaica Plain neighborhood of Boston in 1992. This included six elementary schools, one middle school, and one high school. As part of this project, *Voices of Love and Freedom* was developed as a literature-based approach for teaching important social skills and values related to drug and violence prevention.
- 1995: Adopted District-Wide as the K-12 Character Education Program for the Boston Public Schools. *Voices of Love and Freedom* was adopted by the Boston School Committee as its K-12 literature-based character education program. Supported by the Boston Foundation, Barr Foundation, Hayden Foundation, State Street. Foundation, Bank of Boston Foundation, Carnegie Corporation, Surdna, Metropolitan Life, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundations.
- 1998 to 2001: Developed a Comprehensive School Reform Model and Reading Program in Memphis. *Voices of Love and Freedom* developed a comprehensive school reform model and a comprehensive reading program for eight schools in Memphis funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Assisi Foundation.
- 2002 to 2008: Comprehensive School Reform Model in Twenty States. After positive comparative and longitudinal evaluations in Memphis, the Voices School Design was adopted in more than

40 schools as a comprehensive school reform model between 2002 and 2008.

- 2004: Acquired by Zaner-Bloser Educational Publishers. Zaner-Bloser acquired Voices in 2004 and has published the following programs which have been purchased by over 1000 schools: Voices Reading, Voices Pre-K, Voices Literature and Character Education, Voices Literature & Writing, Voices Leveled Library, and Voices 3C eLessons.
- 2014: Voices Institute. Voices Institute (was established in 2014 to support research and efficacy studies related to existing *Voices* products, to provide professional development for these products, and to develop new, digital social and academic programs such as *Lift Every Voice*.