

# Natural Helpers®

## Advisory Committee



### Who is the Advisory Committee?

The Advisory Committee should consist of four to six key people, including some of the following:

- Guiding administrator (superintendent, principal, community center director)
- Counselor
- Nurse
- Staff member familiar with students from each of the grade levels
- Parent or guardian
- Student representative
- Representative or a community agency, which works closely with the school-age population
- MSU Extension staff
- Natural Helpers program leaders

The Advisory Committee should reflect the composition of the school with a mixture of males and females, age groups, ethnic groups, and other groups. After the first year or so, all advisory committee members in the school community should have been selected and trained to be Natural Helpers as well.

Because of the sensitive nature of selecting prospective Natural Helpers, members of the Advisory Committee should be:

- Familiar with students by grade level.

- Able to identify students who belong to different subgroups (athletes, music students, students with special needs).
- Able to maintain confidentiality.
- Committed to the survey and selection process.

### What does the Advisory Committee Do?

The Advisory Committee is the local backbone of the program.

- It promotes Natural Helpers® in school and/or community.
- It coordinates communication about the program.
- It assists in obtaining local funding.
- It assists with preliminary tasks (budget, timeline, goals, and other preliminary tasks).
- It assists with making decisions about the program.
- It assists with other tasks (tabulation of survey, selection and orientation of selected students and adults, facilitation of the initial training and ongoing training sessions).