



# Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative

## Making a Difference—Examples of Program Outcomes

- In **Poway, California**, the percentage of students reporting that they felt “unsafe” or “very unsafe” at school decreased 70% for middle school students and 81% for high school students over the course of the grant.
- In **Spokane, Washington**, countywide suspensions for weapons violations decreased by 27%, which is attributed to the presence of school resource officers in the schools.
- Through the **Hays, Kansas**, Initiative, 10% of Ellis County families (approximately 400 families) received services from school-based social workers, participated in Functional Family Therapy, or accessed the Learning Center.
- In **Utica, New York**, 31 out of 32 programs implemented through Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) are still actively running in one or more schools.
- In **Pinellas County, Florida**, the drop-out rates for participants of the On-Campus Intervention Program, an alternative in-school suspension program that provides academic assistance and mental health intervention, were roughly half the rate of the comparison group at the end of an 18-month study.
- **Flandreau, South Dakota**, reported decreases in drug violations by 41% and alcohol violations by 75% over the course of the grant.
- The SS/HS Initiative in **Portland, Oregon**, reported that discipline referrals declined each year, with a total reduction of 35.8% over five-year period.
- More than 15,000 individual contacts were made by case managers to at-risk students and over 4,900 individual therapy sessions were provided in **Jonesboro, Arkansas**.
- **Covington, Kentucky**, reported that school behavior improved generally, as revealed by a 60% reduction in office referrals over a two-year period.
- In **Dayton, Ohio**, Alternative Learning Centers were shown to improve attendance; students who would otherwise be suspended or expelled remained in school while receiving intervention for their classroom self-control and behavior problems.
- In **Washington, D.C.**, public school students who participated fully in the Aggression Replacement Training Program showed a significant reduction in negative behaviors, for example, a decrease of 31% in fighting, 19% in bullying others, 28% in getting angry easily, 34% in acting impulsively, 29% in being aggressive, and 36% in disobeying rules or requests.
- Gang-related school violence incidents dropped from a high of 81 incidents to fewer than 9 by the second year of the Initiative in participating communities in **Cook County, Illinois**.
- In **Brooklyn, New York**, student suspensions decreased by 42%.



- The proportion of elementary students in the **Houston, Texas**, SS/HS Initiative who reported missing one or more days of school in the past month because of school safety concerns decreased significantly over the three-year period.
- In **Leon County, Florida**, the percentage of youths referred for delinquent acts declined to 5% of all children ages 10–17, which is lower than the statewide rate.
- **Seattle, Washington**, reported that overall truancy, declined dramatically (approximately 30%) in the middle and high schools.
- **Toledo, Ohio**, reported that the percentage of students passing all 4<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency tests increased by 73% and those passing all 6th grade proficiency tests increased by 51.5% in schools receiving all SS/HS interventions.
- In **Tyrone, Pennsylvania**, there was a 61% reduction in out-of-school suspensions for middle and high school students in the six months following implementation of the Motivational Resource Room (MRR), and since the MRR had an academic component, participating youth were able to keep up with their academic work instead of falling further behind.
- **Deschutes County, Oregon**, reported increased access to mental health services for all elementary, middle, and high school students, from 56 students receiving mental health services prior to the Initiative to 1,713 students during the four years of the project.
- In **Springfield, Oregon**, among students in participating schools, there were decreases in the possession of illegal weapons (–35.6%), gang activity (–35.9%), use of illegal drugs and alcohol (–9%), and bullying and harassment (–4.2%).
- **Lansing, Michigan**, reported that students who participated in the Student and Family Empowerment (SAFE) program improved their behavior and academic achievement. Students participating in the SAFE program were more likely to receive A’s and B’s in their classes.
- More than two-thirds of the students surveyed as part of the Initiative in **Los Angeles, California**, indicated that they learned to take responsibility for their actions (72%), to not get in trouble at school as frequently (68%), and to say “no” when someone pressed them to do something that was not safe or good (68%).
- Fifth graders who were mentored for three consecutive years during the Initiative in **Nassau County, New York**, showed statistically significant improvements in almost all aspects of their school achievement and behavior.
- In **Jefferson County, Kentucky**, students participating in the Louisville Education and Employment Partnership exhibited decreases in unexcused absences and in-school suspensions.
- In the SS/HS–funded **Washington, D.C.**, charter school, students showed improved Student National Curve Equivalent reading and math mean gain scores; students scored highest during the final year of the Initiative.