

SAFE schools HEALTHY students

Making a Difference: Data at a Glance

School Safety

- Nenana, Alaska: 39% decrease in students reporting being bullied a “few times” and 50% decrease in students reporting being bullied “often” over grant period
- Flint, Michigan: 45% decline in physical assault incidents at school over grant period and 16% decline in witnessing violence
- Milville, New Jersey: 46% decrease in violence and vandalism incidents over four-year grant period
- Bronx, New York: 50% decrease in gang fights, 38% decrease in acts of vandalism, 53% decrease in stealing things, and 25% decrease in students fighting, hitting, or attacking someone
- Blanding, Utah: 53% reduction in hard core gang membership over the baseline year; fighting and assaults declined from 52% to 0% at the middle school level and from 38% to .2% at the high school level for Native American student population; for San Juan County, fighting and assaults have declined from 12% to 0% at the middle school level and from 19% to .2% at the high school level over the course of the grant
- Poway, California: 70% decrease by middle school students reporting feeling “unsafe” or “very unsafe” and by 81% high school students over the course of the grant

Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Prevention

- Nenana, Alaska: 75% to 86% increase in students reporting not using marijuana during the past 30 days over the grant period
- Poplar Bluff, Missouri: 19% decrease in drug use; 24% decrease in alcohol use by students over grant period
- Milville, New Jersey: 50% decrease in substance abuse violations over the grant period
- Flandreau, South Dakota: 41% decrease in drug violations and 75% decrease in alcohol violations

Discipline Referrals/Suspensions

- Hanford, California: 46% decline in suspensions for weapon possession and 40% decrease in suspensions for drug/alcohol incidents over the grant period
- Lawrence, Massachusetts: 29% decrease in discipline referrals for weapons/violence-related issues over the four-year grant period

- St. Cloud, Minnesota: 16% decrease in discipline referrals for incidents of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs over the grant period; 15% reduction in suspensions for violent, threatening, or harassing behaviors in students over the four-year grant period
- Beatrice, Nebraska: 48% decrease in the number of students suspended from Gage County over the grant period
- Covington, Kentucky: 60% reduction in office referrals over a two-year period
- Tyrone, Pennsylvania: 61% reduction in out-of-school suspensions for middle and high school students in the six months following implementation of an alternative in-school program with an academic component.

Academic Achievement

- Hanford, California: 60% increase in mathematics scores; 35% increase in English/Language Arts scores as measured by the Academic Performance Index over the grant period
- Poplar Bluff, Missouri: 55% decrease in the number of retentions in third and eighth grade; increase by 28% in grade 3 and by 43% in grade 7 of number of students scoring at or above grade level
- Bronx, New York: 36% improvement in students meeting standards in English Language Arts and 38% improvement in students meeting standards in Mathematics, with one school achieving a 70% improvement in students meeting standards in Mathematics; and a 63% improvement in students meeting standards in ELA over the four-year grant period
- Blanding, Utah: 48% increase in grade 6 and 57% increase in grade 8 for students meeting state standards in Language Arts; 74% increase in grade 6 and 120% increase in grade 8 in meeting state standards in mathematics. In addition, 53% decrease in limited English proficient students
- Milville, New Jersey: 24% increase in Language Arts proficiency in grade 4; 59% increase in mathematics proficiency in grade 9 over the grant period
- Fife, Washington: 17% increase in number of children who enter school ready to learn over the project period
- Toledo, Ohio: 73% increase in students passing all 4th grade proficiency tests and 52% increase in students passing all 6th grade proficiency tests

Attendance

- Nenana, Alaska: increase from 89% to 98% of district attendance rate; increase from 81% to 95% of graduation rate over the grant period
- Louisville, Georgia: 44% increase in the high school graduation rate during the four-year grant period
- Pinellas County, Florida: drop-out rates for students in an alternative in-school suspension program that provides academic assistance and mental health intervention were roughly half of the rate of the comparison group at the end of an 18-month study
- Seattle, Washington: 30% decline of overall truancy in the middle and high schools

Mental Health

- Beatrice, Nebraska: 57% decrease in suicide rate per 100,000 over three-year grant period
- Lawrence, Massachusetts: reduced to an average of 1 to 2 weeks (a quarter of the original level) the waiting time between a referral for mental health services and service delivery; 36% decrease in reported behavioral or psychological crises over two-year period
- St. Cloud, Minnesota: 83% decline in emergency room visits due to mental health reasons; three-year average wait time for mental health visits was 26 days over the grant period, down from the reported 56 to 70 day wait prior to the grant

Programs Sustained after Grant Funds

- Hays, Kansas: the Learning Center, which enabled Hays County high school dropouts as well as adults to complete their high school education, has not only been sustained but also has expanded to serve a total of eight districts. The Learning Center has contributed to a decrease in county dropout rates from 18 percent in 1999 to 2 percent in 2004.
- Jefferson County, Georgia: developed a permanent infrastructure consisting of nine strategy teams that are committed to sustain SSHS activities and services. The collaborative also developed a sustainability plan that is currently ensuring that almost all of the programs and activities originally funded through the SS/HS grant will continue and thrive.
- Pasco, Washington: Educational Service District 123 has sustained many SS/HS activities and programs including regular collaboration and trainings for School Resource Officers, School Crisis Response Emergency Plans in place at schools and eight lead crisis response individuals. In addition, the Mental Health Counselor position at the detention facility resulted in such positive system changes and improved services to youth with mental health needs that the Benton and Franklin Counties chose to permanently fund the position after the SS/HS grant ended.
- Utica, New York: 25 of 32 programs still actively running in one or more schools.

