



Safe Schools Healthy Students



YEAR 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SOUTHWEST INDIANA SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE SAFE SCHOOLS HEALTHY STUDENTS INITIATIVE



WHAT IS THE SISCC?

A TRI-COUNTY COLLABORATION

among Gibson, Posey, and Warrick Counties to implement a four-year federal grant known as Safe Schools Healthy Students initiative. The SISCC is governed by the Core Management Team (CMT) comprised of all seven school districts, Catholic Diocese of Evansville schools located in the three counties, local law enforcement agencies, county juvenile probation, and mental health provider.



WITH DATA DRIVEN GOALS AND MEASUREMENTS

for benchmarking and reporting outcomes as measured by student and school staff surveys, and individualized and overall program evaluation measures.

TO INITIATE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

across the four systems (school, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and mental health) to combine efforts and work together throughout the communities to improve the delivery of services to meet the needs of students and families.

YEAR 1 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Element 1: Safe School Environments and Violence Prevention Activities

- ◇ Completed 47 school safety audits resulting in individualized school needs and priority assessments.
- ◇ Began the purchasing and installation of identified school safety and security equipment.
- ◇ Funded 3 School Resource Officer (SRO) programs in Gibson and Warrick County schools and increased law enforcement presence in Mt. Vernon's schools.
- ◇ Sponsored 3 community presentations and school staff trainings by leading experts in the field of Olweus Bullying Prevention and Cyber Bullying.



Element 2: Alcohol, Tobacco & Other Drug (ATOD) Prevention and Early Intervention

- ◇ Conducted the annual Indiana Prevention Resource Center survey to measure the incidence and prevalence of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug (ATOD) use and violence among students in grades 6-12 with over 7,300 students completing the survey in Spring 2009.
- ◇ Implemented 3 Why Try Programs and 1 Reconnecting Youth program within North Posey, North Gibson, and South Gibson school districts.
- ◇ Initiated 7 Strengthening Families programs in Warrick and Gibson Counties for 39 families to empower parents to interact positively with their children.
- ◇ Sponsored a combined total of 6 training courses on Reconnecting Youth and Strengthening Families resulting in 33 teachers, staff, and/or community members becoming program facilitators.



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Element 3: Student Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Supports

- ◇ Provided Character Counts materials and promotions throughout 12 schools in New Harmony, Warrick County, and East Gibson school districts.
- ◇ Began a needs assessment for implementing a multi-tiered student support system that provides universal, targeted, and individualized support services.
- ◇ Contracted with Youth First, Inc. for 9 Masters-level, school social workers to provide prevention based one-on-one and group sessions to help meet the needs of students and families.
- ◇ Hosted an "Intro to Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports" (PBIS) presentation for school principals and CMT members and supported attendance at the PBIS Leadership conference for those interested in implementation.



Element 4: School-based Mental Health Services

- ◇ Contracted with Southwestern Behavioral Healthcare for 3 full time, county-dedicated mental health case managers to link students and their families to mental health services in the community.
- ◇ Worked closely with school personnel and social workers to identify, assist, and refer families with mental health issues and concerns to the case managers.
- ◇ More than doubled the number of student referrals to community based mental health services during the second half of 2009 for those in need of mental health services.



Element 5: Early Childhood Social and Emotional Programs

- ◇ Piloted the Kindergarten Readiness Checklist with 20 early child care providers.
- ◇ Provided Kindergarten teachers with completed Kindergarten Readiness Checklists for 206 students entering Kindergarten.
- ◇ Administered the Kindergarten Student School Readiness Questionnaire to Kindergarten teachers to measure teachers' perceptions of students entering school ready to learn.
- ◇ Implemented a Strengthening Families program in Warrick County for 7 families with preschool children.



FUTURE PLANS

- ⇒ Continue school social work and mental health case management services
- ⇒ Invest in additional Strengthening Families, Why Try, and Reconnecting Youth programs
- ⇒ Further the purchasing and installation of identified school safety and security equipment
- ⇒ Identify additional funding for the School Resource Officer programs
- ⇒ Increase the number of early childcare providers completing and the number of children entering school with the Kindergarten Readiness Checklists
- ⇒ Develop and implement a strong and effective social norms campaign
- ⇒ Determine best strategy and implement programs for a multi-tiered student support system that provides universal, targeted, and individualized support services
- ⇒ Create a communication strategy that reports needs, gaps, actions, and outcomes which support the effective services and programs of the SSHS initiative

BUDGET & EXPENDITURES

Year 1 Budget (07/01/08 to 06/30/09) = \$1,414,828 Total Expenditures = \$183,408 or 13%**

Year 2 Budget (07/01/09 to 06/30/10) = \$1,478,868 Total Expenditures thru 12/31/09 = \$540,327 or 36.5%

**Non-expended funds are due to anticipated and customary start-up delays of the project. They will be used primarily as carryover funds in a possible Year 5 no-cost extension to complete the scope of grant activities, goals, and objectives.

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