

**Montgomery County Public Schools
Safe and Drug-Free Schools**

**Contemporary Social Issues
Seminar**

April 16, 2009

**Are Schools Using Effective
Drug and Crime Prevention
Programs?**

Effective Programs

- **What are “effective” programs?**
- **What are the schools’ mandates regarding “effectiveness”?**
- **How do we measure “effectiveness”?**
- **What does an “effective program” look like in a classroom?**
- **What are barriers to implementation of “effective” programs?**

Background:

- **Prevention program funding for schools comes directly from the federal government as Title IV, Part A under NCLB**
- **Every school district in the United States receives some funding**
- **Called Safe and Drug-Free Schools “states’ grants portion”; always in danger**
- **With funding comes mandates for implementation of approved activities and programs funded**
- **Monitored by state education agency or LEA**

MISSION

Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

- The purpose of the SDFSCA is to support programs that:
- (1) prevent violence in and around schools;
- (2) prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs;
- (3) involve parents and communities; and,
- (4) are coordinated with related Federal, State, school, and community efforts and resources to foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that promotes student academic achievement.

What does “science-based” or “research-based” mean to a school district?

- **The USDOE’s intent for the many “lists” of programs is to suggest there are many ways to look at effectiveness.**
- **There is no intention to go with one list/ not a marketing scheme. USDOE never intended this list to take on “biblical” proportions.**
- **States have waiver option**
- **Lists of evidenced-based programs as USDOE, OJJDP, SAMHSA and new national registry at NREPP (attached)**
- **But need a “comprehensive” approach, not just one program**

Principles of Effectiveness

- Thus the “principles....
- Developed in 1998 and became law in 2002 under NCLB
- See SDFS regulatory Guidelines at www.nnsdfs.org)

Principles of Effectiveness

- be based on an established set of **performance measures** aimed at ensuring that the elementary schools and secondary schools and communities to be served have a safe, orderly, and drug-free learning environment.
- be based on **scientifically based research** demonstrating that the program to be used will reduce violence and illegal drug use.
- be based on an analysis of the data reasonably available at the time, of the prevalence of **risk factors**, including high or increasing rates of reported cases of child abuse and domestic violence; **protective factors**, buffers, assets; or other variables identified through scientifically based research that occur in schools and communities.
- include meaningful and ongoing **consultation with and input from parents** in the development of the application and administration of the program or activity.

Montgomery County Public Schools Safe and Drug-Free Schools

- Current data compared with state and national student reports
- Show needs analysis (MAS in packet)
- Demonstrate model curriculum (See ALERT CD)
- Barriers to “ science-based” choices
- Show additional, effective programs used in the country (Student Assistance)
- Describe states’ “waiver” option

How Did We Do?

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THANK YOU!

- For additional information, please contact
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- Come and see materials, curricula, data sources
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