

SAFE SCHOOLS HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Friday, November 7, 2008

1. Collect statistics –statistics were collected from participating districts. As of this point there are 17 participating school.
2. Parent/ Student Involvement—the committee discussed methods of involving parents and students in the process of writing the grant. Suggestions included presenting information for discussion at the following meetings: student council meetings, parent-teacher organization, curriculum committee, school improvement team, youth involved in student workforce development groups, etc. It was recommended that at a minimum, information about grant activities be presented while the grant committee is in the process of finalizing grant activities (Jan-Feb). It is important that all stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, administrators understand what it would mean to them if this grant was funded and identify any potential barriers to implementation that could be addressed before the proposal is submitted). School districts may however choose to inform key stakeholders at any point in the process. Each school district will be asked to submit a brief statement about how all the key stakeholder groups were involved in the planning process before the grant was finalized.
3. Inclusion of Private Schools-A statement about the inclusion of private schools accompanies these minutes. Please review and make sure it is accurate. If a school district is not in agreement with this statement please contact Michelle Alvarez michelle.alvarez@mnsu.edu. **No contact by December 3, 2008 indicates agreement with the statement.**

If the proposed policy stands, each school district is responsible for contacting private schools in their area between December 4, 2008 and December 17, 2008 to see if they want to be involved. It was suggested by the committee that some form of written communication be included in this process. For example, a letter could be sent by the school district stating they are applying for a Safe Schools Healthy Students grant as part of a larger consortium <http://www.ed.gov/programs/dvpsafeschools/index.html> and if the private school is interested in being involved please contact _____ from the district—OR--- a phone call could be made to the private school and a letter sent confirming their interest or non-interest in participating in the project.

How to explain how the private school would benefit---Private school will be included in grant opportunities afforded that specific school district. For example, if a school safety audit is conducted, the company contracted to do the audit would also visit the private schools; if that school district is trained in a research based curriculum, the private school would be invited to the training. Once the grant has been completed the committee will clearly define what resources will be extended to private schools in the area that opt-in to participation.

4. Anticipated barriers—The committee was reminded that as we begin program selection and defining components of the grant, they should watch for anticipated barriers to grant implementation so that these can be addressed prior to submitting the grant. These barriers could include---consistency with district policy, adherence to union contracts, etc. Several committee members brought up sustainability as a potential barrier. Please consult http://www.promoteprevent.org/Resources/legacy_wheel/index.html this Safe Schools Healthy Students website. SSHS is committed to providing the technical assistance needed to promote and sustain program components implemented as part of a grant award. Michelle also agreed to chair a sustainability committee when the grant is funded.
5. Selecting Research-based programs, things to consider—The grant committee reviewed websites that provide detailed information on research-based programs in each of the Element areas. Program aspects such as costs, number of required trainings, and necessary materials were reviewed. This grant requires that researched based programs be selected for implementation. If a selected program is not reviewed on one of the following websites, the onus is on us to provide the research-base as part of the grant proposal. The selection of programs not on the website should be kept to a minimum to increase chances of funding.

Element 1 Safe School Environments and Violence Prevention

Element 2 Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug

Element 3 Student Behavioral Social and Emotional Supports

Element 4 Mental Health Services

Element 5 Early Childhood SEL programs

Research-based program websites:

<http://www.modelprograms.samhsa.gov/>

<http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/find.asp>

<http://www.casel.org/programs/index.php>

<http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/>

<http://www.colorado.edu/cspv/blueprints/modelprograms/MTFC.html>

6. Please send to Michelle and Kari--documentation of history of collaborative efforts between your school district and other school districts/community partners to meet student needs (see page 35-37 of previous grant)

AT NEXT MEETING FRIDAY DECEMBER 5, 2008:

We will compare risk factors to protective factors and identify common gaps---if possible we will also look at potential model programs to address the gaps so that districts can begin the program selection process

GRANTWRITERS:

Michelle Alvarez, MSW, EdD, Assistant Professor of Social Work, MSU, Mankato

Michelle.alvarez@mnsu.edu

Kari Velzke, B.A., Research Assistant, MSU, Mankato Department of Social Work

Kari.vlezke@mnsu.edu

Respectfully submitted 11/23/08,

Michelle Alvarez