



Healthy School Communities for Successful Students Partnership

Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention and School-Based Surveillance:
A Cooperative Agreement between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Adolescent and School Health and the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Purpose The purpose of this funding is to 1.) expand the capacity of state education agencies and school districts to effectively contribute to the reduction of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among adolescents and the reduction of disparities in HIV and STDs experienced by specific adolescent sub-populations and 2.) conduct school-based surveillance through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and School Health Profiles implementation.

Program activities are expected to reinforce efforts to reduce teen pregnancy rates due to the shared risk factors and intervention activities to address HIV infection, other STDs and teen pregnancy.

Outcomes By the end of the project period, July 31, 2018, awardees will demonstrate the following outcomes:

1. Decrease sexual risk behaviors among adolescents
2. Increase use of condoms and highly effective contraception methods among sexually active adolescents
3. Increase adolescents' access to key sexual health services
4. Obtain weighted Youth Risk Behavior and School Health Profiles data.

Strategy 1: School-Based Surveillance

This strategy requires education and health agencies to collect and use data to guide program planning and improvement. State partners will collect, analyze and disseminate data on adolescent health risk behaviors including sexual risk behaviors, through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey and on school health policies and practices using the School Health Profiles.

Strategy 2: School-Based HIV/STD Prevention

Education agencies and partner districts will assess, update, implement and evaluate policies, practices, programs and services in the following three areas:

1. Implement Exemplary Sexual Health Education

- expand a systematic, evidence-informed program in sexual health education that includes the use of grade-specific interventions that are planned, ongoing and sequential for all students; is medically accurate, developmentally- and culturally-appropriate, and consistent with the scientific research
- provide adolescents with the essential knowledge and critical skills needed to avoid HIV, other STDs, and unintended pregnancy
- delivered by well-qualified and trained teachers

State resource: **CSDE's Guidelines for the Sexual Health Education Component of Comprehensive Health Education** www.ct.gov/sde/healtheducation



2. Increase Access to Sexual Health Services

- develop guidance for prevention including delaying the onset of sexual activity
- promote the dual use of condoms and highly effective contraceptives among sexually active adolescents
- expand HIV and STD testing, counseling and referral, pregnancy testing and HPV vaccinations

3. Create Safe and Supportive Environments for Students and Staff

- establish school environments characterized by supportive and caring relationships among adults and students and by the absence of discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying
- establish a safe and nurturing climate that includes educational, cultural, social, professional, and physical circumstances or conditions for learning and school-community programs that can affect student and staff safety and health (CDC)
- implement activities that increase school connectedness, parent engagement and prevent bullying and sexual harassment

Audience: The following ten partner districts have committed to a five-year partnership with the CSDE to assess, update, implement and evaluate policies, programs and services in exemplary sexual health education, sexual health services and safe and supportive environments. The emphasis of these efforts focus on students in middle and high schools including those in alternative school settings. Lessons learned and exemplary resources will be shared statewide.

Connecticut Technical High Schools
East Hartford
Hamden
Middletown
New Britain
Norwich
Stratford
Waterbury
West Hartford
Woodstock

For additional information about this exciting Partnership contact:

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