



# No Child Left Behind

## Title IV, Part A: Safe and Drug-Free Schools

### Fact Sheet

#### **What is the purpose of the SDFSC program?**

The purpose of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) program is to support programs that:

- Prevent violence in and around schools;
- Prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs;
- Involve parents and communities; and
- 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 are the program requirements?**

Districts may carry out a broad range of drug and violence prevention programs with SDFSC funds. Funded programs and activities must:

- Foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports academic achievement;
- Be consistent with the Principles of Effectiveness;
- Be designed to:
  - Prevent or reduce violence; the use, possession and distribution of illegal drugs; and delinquency; and
  - Create a well-disciplined environment conducive to learning, which includes consultation between teachers, principals, and other school personnel to identify early warning signs of drug use, violence, and to provide behavioral interventions as part of classroom management efforts.

#### **What are the Principles of Effectiveness?**

The Principles of Effectiveness provide the framework to assist LEAs in designing, implementing, and evaluating high-quality programs and achieving measurable results. Programs or activities must:

- Be based on an assessment of objective data regarding the incidence of violence and illegal drug use in the elementary schools, secondary schools, and communities to be served. This assessment must include an objective analysis of the current conditions and consequences regarding violence and illegal drug use, including delinquency that is based on on-going local assessment or evaluation activities.
- Be based on an established set of performance measures aimed at ensuring that the

elementary schools, secondary schools, and communities to be served have a safe, orderly, and drug-free learning environment.

- Be based on scientifically based research (SBR) that provides evidence that the program will reduce violence and illegal drug use.
- Be based on an analysis of the data reasonably available at the time, including: the prevalence of risk factors (including high or increasing rates of reported cases of child abuse and domestic violence); protective factors, buffers, and assets; or other variables in schools and communities identified through SBR.
- Include meaningful and ongoing consultation with and input from parents in the development of the application and administration of the program or activity.

#### **How often must data be collected for the needs assessment?**

States and local entities must collect data on an ongoing basis, through assessments or evaluation activities.

#### **Performance Measures – what is a measurable goal and how many must a district have?**

A measurable goal is one that permits a quantitative assessment of progress. (Ex: “To reduce the number of fights between students in the upcoming school year by one-half compared to the previous year.”) Districts are required to have a minimum of two performance measures.

#### **May an LEA implement a program that does not meet the standard established for SBR?**

Districts may apply to the State for a waiver of the requirement to implement programs that are SBR. However, districts applying for waivers must demonstrate that funded programs or activities are innovative and have a substantial likelihood of success.

#### **Is there a list of approved programs?**

The U.S. Department of Education has published a document that lists Exemplary and Promising programs. The document can be downloaded at: <http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/exemplary01/exemplary.pdf>

#### **Who is the contact for questions?**

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