

Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant (SS/HS)

The Local Perspective:
Waterford School District
July 2008



The SS/HS Initiative

- Was created in 1999 in response to rising concerns about youth violence and school safety.
- The SS/HS initiative draws on the best practices of education, justice, social services, and mental health systems to provide integrated and comprehensive resources for prevention programs and pro-social services for youth.
- Out of 355 applications nationally, 57 grants were awarded in 27 states. The Waterford School District is one of two school districts in Michigan and the only district within the Tri-County metropolitan area to receive the grant award.

The SS/HS Initiative

- The SS/HS initiative will strengthen, enhance, and expand the collaborative relationship between community-based organizations and the Waterford School District.
- Community-wide approaches will be taken to create safe, respectful and drug-free schools to promote pro-social skills and healthy childhood development.
- Best practices and evidence based research in education, justice, social services and mental health empower communities to support all students.

How is the initiative funded?

- SS/HS is funded through a 5.7 million dollar grant from a collaboration of federal agencies, the U.S. Department of Education, Health and Human Services, and the U.S. Department of Justice.
- The Safe Schools/Healthy Students grants have assisted more than 200 schools, communities and tribal areas nationwide with educational programs.



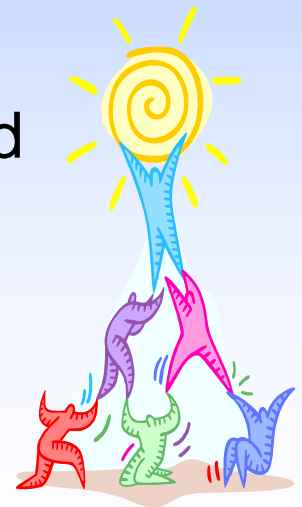
Who will the SS/HS initiative benefit?

- Our 11,684 students will participate in programs that foster academic and social success.
- Parents will become better informed on the availability of resources within the community.
- Staff members will benefit by building stronger relationships with their students, parents, colleagues, and the greater community.



Our Local Goals

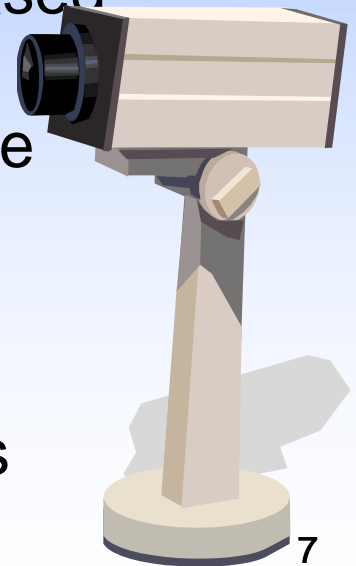
- To provide our students, schools, and families with a network of effective services, supports and activities.
- To assist students in developing the skills and the emotional resilience necessary to promote positive mental health.
- To prevent violent behavior and drug-use.
- To expand collaboration between our parent and community agencies.
- To increase student achievement.



Element 1: Safe School Environment

Increase safety and security in all school buildings

- Complete electronic access system at all elementary buildings.
- Student record system upgrade will be purchased to include discipline tracking.
- Additional security surveillance cameras will be installed.
- Crisis Intervention Training will be provided to staff.
- Upgraded transportation digital video cameras and equipment will be installed.



Element 2: Alcohol, Tobacco and other Drug Prevention Activities (ATOD)

Reduce ATOD use within the District

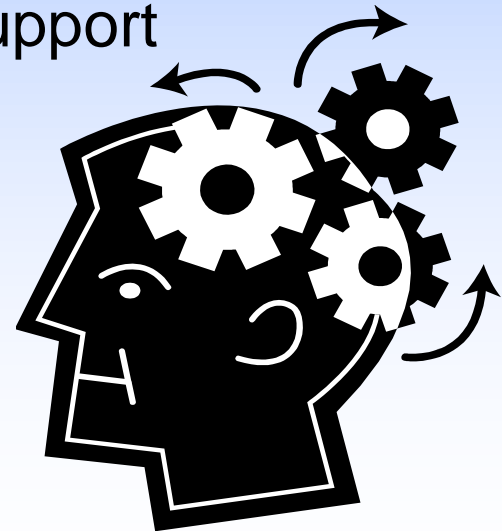
- All Stars: A middle school substance abuse program.
- Class Action: A high school alcohol prevention program.
- Reconnecting Youth: High School at-risk program.
- FAST (Families and Schools Together) program.



Element 3: Student Behavioral, Social, and Emotional Supports

Support at-risk students to keep them connected to school

- After school programming in all middle and high schools
- Juvenile Justice Transition Liaison support
- Conflict Resolution training
- Anti-Bullying training & program
- Challenge Day



Element 4: Mental Health Services

Improve students' mental health through increased access to services

- Provide training in mental health awareness to staff.
- Community forums will provide information to parents and community members.
- Individual plans for at-risk students will be developed.
- Small group interactive sessions will be made available for students experiencing mental health challenges.

Element 5: Early Childhood Social and Emotional Learning Programs

Improve Early Childhood Psychosocial and Emotional Development

- A Head Start teacher will be added.
- The Hispanic Preschool Program will be expanded.
- An additional First Families program will be added.
- The Second Steps program will be available in Spanish for parents.



How will we know that the SS/HS Initiative is working?

- Results are important.
- Outcomes will be evaluated and progress will be measured.
- A local evaluator will conduct a monthly review of programs and activities.
- Student academic information will continue to be used as a tool in measuring how well the programs are increasing our student achievement.
- Our evaluations should also show reductions in substance abuse among our youth and an increase in mental health services available for students.

Your Support Made this Grant Happen

- WSD Board of Education
 - Brian Whiston, President
 - Scott Hudson, Vice President
 - Robert Petrusha Jr., Secretary
 - John Himmelspach, Treasurer
 - Dave Smith, Trustee
 - Virginia Poehlman, Trustee
 - Jim Larkin, Trustee
- Robert Neu, Superintendent

SS/HS Team Members who made this award possible:

- Craig Blomquist, Crary Middle School, Principal
- Bill Holbrook, Associate Director of Business Services
- Geralyn Janeczko, Supervisor of Special Education
- Sara Konieczka, Administrative Assistant, Business Services
- Rhonda Lessel, Supervisor of Community/School Relations
- Nadine Milostan, Director of Special Education
- Joan Mulcahy, Stepanski Early Childhood, Principal
- Laura Smith, Houghton Elementary, Principal
- Susan Steigmeyer, Counselor, Kettering High School
- Gen Wandrie, Pupil Accounting, Specialist
- Vicki Widman, Special Education, Project Find

Individuals who supported the team in preparing the grant:

- Peni Aldrich, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources
- Mike Batten, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction/Accountability
- Tom Wiseman, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services

Partnerships and Collaborations:

- SS/HS Advisory Board
- SS/HS Core Management Team
- Catholic Social Services of Oakland County
- Oakland County Circuit Court Family Division
- Oakland County Community Mental Health
- Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
- Oakland University
- Waterford Coalition for Youth
- Waterford Township Police Department
- Waterford Youth Assistance

Individuals from Partner Agencies who made this award possible:

- Jeffrey Brown, Executive Director, Oakland County Community Mental Health
- Lynn Crotty, Director of Child and Family Services, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency
- Pamela L. Davis, Manager, Oakland County Circuit Court, Family Division
- Heather Halls, Executive Director, Waterford Coalition for Youth
- Margaret Huggard, Director, Catholic Social Services
- Daniel McCaw, Chief, Waterford Township Police Department
- Janice Rowe, Caseworker, Waterford Youth Assistance
- Dr. Carol Swift, Department Chair and Associate Professor, School of Education and Human Services, Oakland University

SS/HS Initiative

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