Safe and Drug-Free Schools/Title II: 2011-2012

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At-a-Glance

Safe and Drug-Free Schools (SDFS) implemented professional development activities that promoted positive youth development through the 40 Developmental Assets framework. The Developmental Assets are 40 common sense, positive experiences and qualities that help influence choices young people make and help them become caring, responsible adults. These assets are related to a range of outcomes for children and youth. Low levels of assets are related to increased risk for negative outcomes including low academic performance; alcohol, tobacco, and illicit drug use; precocious sexual activity; and antisocial behavior and violence. High levels of assets are related to positive outcomes including academic achievement, leadership, and well-being. SDFS supported the administration of the Developmental Assets Profile (DAP) to facilitate professional development activities.

Training Overview

SDFS staff consisted of four members who conducted professional development activities to a total of 5,023 district staff during the 2011-12 school year. Professional development activities provided include: Anti-Bullying, Developmental Assets student data interpretation, Developmental Assets Training of the Trainer, Developmental Assets Overview, Human Growth Development and Sexuality, and Substance Abuse Response Team. SDFS contracted services through Region 10 to provide professional development activities to district staff in areas that included: Red Ribbon Week Fair, Counselor Connect Drug Trends, Peers Making Peace, Rainbow Days, Region 10 Bullying Conference, and National Take Back Initiative. Additional resources were provided by SDFS to district staff to implement activities that supported the Developmental Assets. Each campus nominated a campus coordinator to attend training from one of the following programs: Why Try, Rachel’s Challenge, R time, and Negotiate. SDFS organized these training opportunities for district staff to attend.

DAP Administration

The DAP was a questionnaire designed by the Search Institute to examine the presence of Developmental Asset categories and to document how Developmental Asset categories were currently experienced. The DAP has been administered to students in grades 6-11 over the last three school years. Results were used by SDFS to facilitate conversations with district staff to implement activities that built assets and supported positive student outcomes. During the 2011-12 school year, SDFS provided Developmental Assets student data interpretation training to district counselors, Youth and Family Center (YFC) specialists, district social workers, and psychologists. Upon completion of training, participants were able to interpret student results DAP results to enhance the services they provided to students.

DAP Results

DAP results were made available at the campus level on MyData Portal, but student level DAP results were made available upon request to meet confidentiality requirements. The evaluator conducted phone interviews with participants of the Developmental Assets student data interpretation training to identify implementation of DAP results. Results of interviews with participants suggested the access to information was unfavorable. District staff would have to contact his or her supervisor for student results and then the supervisor passed the request to SDFS who obtained the information from the district’s research department. The time constraints of district staff would require immediate access to student DAP results. As a result, student level DAP results were not used among participants who attended the Developmental Assets student data interpretation training.

Recommendations

There were two recommendations as a result of the 2011-12 evaluation. First, streamline student level DAP results to school staff. Second, utilize student level DAP results to tailor resources as needed by campus.

For more information, please visit the Dallas ISD Evaluation and Accountability Department website at http://www.dallasisd.org/Page/15252