

2009 Safe Schools/Healthy Students Abstract

Albemarle County Public Schools (ACS) is requesting funding to implement a Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) **Structure and Support** Program on behalf of the Charlottesville/Albemarle community. Partners include the Charlottesville City Schools (CCS), the Charlottesville and Albemarle Police Departments, Region Ten Community Services Board (CSB), the 16th District Juvenile Court Service Unit, the Charlottesville and Albemarle Departments of Social Services, and the Charlottesville/Albemarle Commission on Children and Families (CCF). The purpose of the grant is to implement an integrated, comprehensive, community-wide plan designed to promote healthy childhood development and prevent violence and substance use in the participating school districts by creating safe, respectful, and drug-free school environments, by promoting pro-social skills, and supporting healthy childhood development.

The SS/HS Program will build on and expand the strong, collaborative approach to serving children and families that has guided local efforts for the past decade. Over the past four years, local partners have gathered data on community strengths and needs to identify gaps in services to assure that our schools provide a solid balance of Structure and Support so that children are safe and healthy, as well as to plan needed programming. The project will address five risk factors: economic disparity, youth violence and crime in the schools and community, race and socioeconomic achievement gap, family disruption and disorganization, and early initiation of risk behaviors.

The proposed SS/HS Program will assure **a safe school environment and violence prevention** by expanding the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to all schools and implementing Restorative Practices in all schools. The Program will support **alcohol and drug prevention activities** by expanding in-school prevention and early intervention to seven previously unserved schools using the Pennsylvania Student Assistance Model and Second Step. The Program will provide **student behavioral, social and emotional supports** by implementing Responsive Classroom in four elementary schools and by providing Life Skills training to high risk students. The Program will improve **mental health services** providing eight clinicians who will use Teen Intervene and Motivational Interviewing. Finally, the Program will offer early **childhood social and emotional supports** by creating a second three year old High Scope classroom and providing additional family support workers for publicly funded pre-schools.

Based on the Charlottesville/Albemarle community's strong history of collaborative planning and program implementation, SS/HS partners are confident that the proposed program will support a comprehensive system of services to assure that all students have structure and support to allow them the very best opportunity to be safe and healthy, and develop to their full potentials.