

Creating a Safe School Environment

The school district has installed closed-circuit security cameras and a visitor identification system in all school buildings. Exterior door alarms, duress alarms, and additional outdoor lighting will also be installed. Building and district-wide safety audits with recommendations have begun and will be conducted annually.

School safety teams will receive training and on-site assistance from local and national experts on crisis preparedness, data collection, documentation, planning, and team management. Security handbooks and safety policies will be evaluated and updated, with training for appropriate personnel to ensure proper implementation.

School district policies and procedures will be reviewed and updated to better ensure the health and safety of students and staff.

The students' code of conduct and discipline guidelines will be reviewed and updated annually to improve student behavior, and increase the protective nature of the school climate.

Additional Safety Personnel

A second School Resource Officer (SRO) has been hired and assigned to the high school.

A Truancy-Probation Officer has been hired and assigned to the high school.



Background of the Project

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative in the Middletown schools is a collaborative grant program supported by three Federal agencies: U.S. Department of Education, Department of Health and Human Services, and U.S. Department of Justice.

Middletown City Schools received a SS/HS grant to work in partnership with local agencies. Our local partners are:

- Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Orange County
- Dispute Resolution Center
- Middletown Recreation and Parks Department
- Middletown City Police and Town of Wallkill Police Departments
- Occupations, Inc.
- Orange County Department of Mental Health
- Orange County Probation Department

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Safe, Healthy, & Ready to Learn

The Enlarged City School District of Middletown is a diverse public school district serving over 6,800 students. Middletown strives to provide fiscally sound educational opportunities in a safe environment that continuously supports our diverse student population.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative is based on the premise that schools and communities working in partnership can achieve the goal of a safe and supportive environment for our children and promote the healthy development of school-age children.

We plan to achieve this goal by addressing the following elements:

Safe School Environment

Violence, alcohol and other drug prevention and early intervention

School and community mental health preventive and treatment intervention services

Early childhood psychosocial and emotional development

Supporting and connecting schools and communities

Safe School Policies

Programs

G.R.E.A.T.

Partner: Middletown City Police and Town of Walkkill Police Departments

Schools served: Elementary and middle schools

G.R.E.A.T (Gang Resistance Education And Training) is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed classroom curriculum. With prevention as its primary objective, the program is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence, and gang membership.

Life Skills Training

Partner: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC)
Schools served: Elementary schools

Life Skills Training (LST) is a model research-based substance abuse prevention curriculum shown to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors.

Peer Mediation & Conflict Resolution

Partner: The Dispute Resolution Center
Schools served: Elementary, middle, and high schools

Peer mediation offers students an alternative to traditional disciplinary practices to help schools become safer places. The goal of peer mediation is to reduce conflict and provide children with problem-solving skills. Trained peer mediators create a safe atmosphere, allowing disputing students to tell their stories and assisting them in working out a mutually acceptable agreement.

Programs

PBIS

Schools served: All

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports) is a systems change method that promotes positive behaviors in students. Strategies are developed that manage student behavior in classroom settings and outside of classroom settings.

Project SUCCESS

Partner: Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Council (ADAC)
Schools served: Middle and high schools

Project SUCCESS (Schools Using Coordinated Community Efforts to Strengthen Students) is a national model substance abuse prevention program. The Project SUCCESS Counselors work with students individually and in small groups; conduct classroom presentations; train and consult on prevention issues with school staff; refer and follow up with students and families needing additional services in the community. The Project SUCCESS Counselors are available during school to see students who are using alcohol or other drugs or have personal, peer, school, or family issues that could lead to substance abuse.

SS/HS Behavioral Health Team

Partner: Occupations, Inc.
Schools served: Middle and high schools

Social workers will be housed in the middle and high schools and will provide screening and assessments, counseling groups, family meetings and counseling services to students on an individual basis and their families. All meetings are free, confidential, and held in a safe setting.

Programs

Healthy Families Program

Partner: Occupations, Inc.

The Healthy Families Program is a national model program designed to help expectant and new parents get their children off to a healthy start. Healthy Families counselors provide pregnant women and new parents with information and support to promote positive parenting skills, maximize child development, reduce life stresses and increase use of preventive health care.

Parents Apart Program

Partner: The Dispute Resolution Center

The Parents Apart Program will provide instructional workshops to separated, divorced, and never married parents. The program is designed to reduce family discord through development of improved co-parenting skills. This nine hour educational program will be offered four times per year.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Mentoring

Partner: Big Brothers Big Sisters

Big Brothers Big Sisters after school mentoring program will pair adults from the community as well as college and high school students with younger students to develop resiliency and life skills.

After-School Sports Academy and Intramural Activities

Partner: Middletown Recreation and Parks Department
Schools served: Middle and elementary schools

After-school recreational/athletic programs designed for middle school students will be offered at the Middletown Recreation Community Center. These programs will develop students' skills in academics, athletics, fitness, and personal living. Current elementary school intramurals will be expanded to include middle school academic goals.