



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief of Schools



Summary

Peer pressure, social acceptance and substance use have an ability to impact our students and their ability to make pro-social decisions that support academic success. Additionally, it is known that peer influences are key during the years of adolescent development.

In an effort to address these challenges, the Office of the Chief of Schools has invested in the Theater Troupe/Peer Education Project. The Theater Troupe/Peer Education Project (TTPEP) aims to prevent substance use and other unhealthy behaviors among school-aged youth through peer education. Participants, usually youth of middle school age, are presented with an interactive theatrical performance by their peers, followed by two workshops for questions and skill-building.

The aim of the performance and workshops is use peer education to increase the student's knowledge of social norms; modify their attitudes, beliefs, and intentions about substance use; and provide them with peer refusal skills.

FAQ's

Q: What data is collected during the intervention?

A: During the reporting period, progress measurements will be captured from students to include a pre and post test regarding their knowledge and beliefs related to various high risk behaviors.

Q: How does the intervention relate to principal scorecard? How participation and performance will (can) be tied to IMPACT?

A: Teachers and School Leaders are held accountable for key performance measures that are improved when student well being is fostered, including improvements in test scores, school safety, and student attendance and disruption-free classrooms.

Your Role as Principal

- To support program implementation by ensuring social workers have the continuity and consistency of session times/locations and dedicated time to prepare for the performances and workshops.
- To schedule staff coverage to manage student crises during Theater Troupe sessions to ensure minimal interruption.

The Importance of Theater Troupe

- Opportunity to Increase the audience members' knowledge of social norms related to substance abuse and other high risk behaviors
- Support for students to modify their attitudes, beliefs, and intentions about substance use; and provide them with peer refusal skills.

How This Affects You

- Possibility of increased test scores, improved school climate, safety, disruption-free classrooms
- Seeing symptom/functioning scores correlated with number of infractions

Desired
Outcome 1:

Knowledge of the consequences of alcohol and marijuana use and other high-risk behaviors

Desired
Outcome 2:

Knowledge of social norms related to alcohol and marijuana use

Desired
Outcome 3:

Communication and resistance skills related to alcohol and marijuana use



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Chief of Schools

**Questions? Please contact Deitra Bryant –Mallory
via email: deitra.bryant-mallory@dc.gov**