

2008-2009 AEIS Addendum: AISD School Violence Prevention and Intervention

Texas Education Code 39.053 requires Texas school districts to report a description of violence prevention and intervention policies and procedures as part of the district's formal AEIS Performance Report. The following listing includes relevant AISD policies and procedures as well as training and resources provided for 2008-2009. In addition, selected findings from the 2008-2009 Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities needs assessment have been included as required by law.

District Policies and Procedures Concerned with Violence Prevention/Reduction

1. AISD Board Policy on Student Discipline (<http://www.tasb.org/policy/pol/private/227901>)
2. AISD Student Code of Conduct
3. AISD Administrative Discipline Procedures Manual
4. PEIMS Database – Disciplinary Electronic Educational Documentation System (DEEDS)
5. Guidelines for campus IMPACT teams
6. Mandatory Campus Improvement Plan School Safety Objective
7. AISD Campus and District Safety Plans
8. AISD Board Policy on Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Bullying
9. AISD Student Information Packet

District Training and Resources Used to Prevent/Reduce Violence

The following table summarizes the training and resources provided during 2008-2009.

Campus/District

Activity/Training/Resource	Description
Crimestoppers	AISD Police Dispatchers are trained in answering police and emergency calls
Code of Conduct	Training for students, parents, and staff
Campus All Hazard Safety Plans (Tactical Emergency Operations Plan)	Ongoing training of campus staff who are identified as emergency liaisons to the district, district provides template emergency planning document, continuing review of AISD planning documents, and safety and security campus site visits
School evacuation, lockdown, and severe weather shelter	This occurs on each campus as per their emergency operations plan.
Discipline procedures and DEEDS	Administrative staff
Disciplinary alternative education placement.	Administrative staff
Search and seizure procedures	Staff

Districtwide Suicide Prevention Training (QPR Question, Persuade, Refer)	All AISD high school staff members
ACCESS program., Responding in Peaceful and Positive Ways with peer mediation under the direction of a Violence Prevention Coordinator at Garcia.	ACCESS program, Parenting With Love and Limits at Austin Child Guidance Center for secondary students who are difficult for parents to manage.
Texas Behavior Support Initiative training	Special education staff
Texas Education Agency Regional Support Center, Region XIII	Professional development training sessions in which counselors may choose to participate.
Positive Behavior Support	Staff at selected campuses
<p>Violence prevention curriculum –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Districtwide bully and sexual harassment curricula: Bully Proofing Your Schools, Quit It, No Place for Hate. • Districtwide Policy Training on Bullying, Harassment and Dating Violence – middle school and high school faculty • Additional curricula at selected schools: No Name Calling Day, Kelso/Conflict Resolution, SMART Curriculum, Bully Busters, Flirting or Hurting, Live This, Second Step, and campus developed bully prevention and conflict resolution programs that utilize collected curriculum, materials, and videos 	Training for students and staff

The following table summarizes the program available during 2008-2009 related to Violence Prevention/Reduction.

Student Programs

Program	Description
Live This! Curriculum	Guidance and Counseling - Live This! Curriculum
Health	Making Healthy Choices curriculum (all grades: classroom teachers in elementary school, Science teachers in Middle School, and Health teachers in High School), and the TEA-recommended Drug And Violence Education (DAVE) curriculum.

Junior Police Academy	Selected middle schools
Criminal Justice Academy	Five different courses taught at Lanier HS, two are articulated with ACC
Peer mediation, conflict resolution, interpersonal skills training	Two adult training sessions conducted by PAXUnited . These adults were then certified to train student mediators.
Peer mentoring	e.g., PAL - available at 31 elementary, 6 middle, and 12 high schools
Positive Behavior Support Program	Available on 82 campuses
Youth leadership, cooperative learning	e.g., Student Council
Anti-bullying, anti-harassment	e.g., Expect Respect program - available at 18 schools) Disciplinary alternative education program social/behavioral skills
Community referral services and support	Through CIS, IMPACT teams, and SCL referral system
Second Step	Selected campuses
LifeSkills	Selected middle school campuses
INVEST and Positive Families	Selected students removed to the ALC, and their families
District-wide	Character Education Initiative
Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program	Selected middle schools
ACCESS Gang Prevention, Intervention Resource Officer	Available to all campuses upon request for student, staff, parent trainings and gang assessments.
Teen dating violence prevention press conference and poster contest sponsored by AISD and The Family Violence Prevention Task Force	Annually in October on an AISD High School campus.

AISD personnel with direct responsibility for Violence Prevention/Reduction are list below.

- Classroom Teachers (Elementary Schools), Science Teachers (Middle Schools), Health Teachers (High Schools)
- Guidance Counselors
- School to Community Liaisons
- Parent Support Specialists
- Behavioral Specialists
- School Resource Officers
- District Safety Team – meets monthly to evaluate district safety and emergency issues
- Positive Behavior Support Coaches

External consultation and collaboration who provide services regarding Violence Prevention/Reduction.

- Central Texas School Safety Consortium
- Title IV Advisory Group
- Center for Safe Communities and Schools
- Joint Juvenile Gang Response Unit
- Austin Travis County Family Violence Prevention Task Force
- Austin Travis County Suicide Prevention Task Force

**AUSTIN ISD Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities
Evaluation Report, 2008-2009 Selected Findings**

The 2008-2009 AISD Substance Use and Violence Prevention Needs Assessment focused on describing trends in student substance use and student aggressive behavior and identifying patterns in these indicators. The key findings from these analyses are summarized below.

Student Substance Use:

Drug referrals continued to decline in 2008-2009 among high schools students (from 438 in 2007-2008 to 358 in 2008-2009), while increasing at the middle school level (from 190 in 2007-2008 to 219 in 2008-2009). However, for the first time since the 2004-2005 school year, alcohol discipline referrals rose sharply in 2008-2009 at the high school level (from 29 to 54).

Over 75% of 6th through 12th grade respondents perceived tobacco, and alcohol, to be at least *Somewhat dangerous*. However, the degree of perceived dangerousness for marijuana progressively declined as grade level increased, with a particularly sharp decrease in perceptions of dangerousness for marijuana among high school students compared to their middle school peers (53% for 12th graders vs. 87% for 6th graders).

Alcohol was the most prevalent substance that students reported using in 2008-2009. Also, recent substance use incrementally increased with grade level for tobacco, alcohol, and marijuana. For instance, students in the 10th grade were more likely to report tobacco use than students in the 9th grade.

Students' substance use is also strongly related to their perceptions of other students' use at their school. Students who perceived that over 50% of students were using a substance in the past month were more likely to report that they were using those substances at least monthly themselves.

Aggressive Behavior:

Aggressive behavior continues to be a greater disciplinary problem among middle school students than high school students. The percentage of middle school students disciplined for offenses of verbal or physical aggression is more than twice that of the percentage of high school students disciplined for the same behaviors (18% and 8%, respectively, in 2008-2009). Also, the percentage of middle school students disciplined for more than one offense was three to four times the percentage of high school students disciplined for more than one offense (e.g., 4% and 1%, respectively, in 2008-2009).

Students with repeat offenses were the lowest since 2004-2005. In 2008-2009, there was a 20 percentage point decrease among middle school students with repeat offenses (25% in 2008-2009 from 45% in 2007-2008). Similarly, the percentage of high school students who had more than one aggressive offense dropped to 17% in 2008-2009, a 14 percentage point decrease from 2007-2008.

How is AISD Addressing the Prevention of School Violence?

Austin Independent School District (AISD) has received federal funding through the Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) grant since the 1987-1988 school year. The purpose of the SDFSC grant is to supplement state and local educational organizations' drug abuse and violence prevention efforts. During the 2008-2009 school year, AISD received a total Title IV grant of \$363,839 which was expended on district wide student programs, support services and campus-level initiatives at campuses within AISD (primary campuses) and in the private, non-profit, and delinquent facilities within the district's boundaries. A total of 83,483 public school students and 2,309 private school students were served by Title IV funds in 2008-2009. In addition to programs aimed at student's education on violence and substance use prevention, Title IV funding was used in 2008-2009 to provide district wide support services in the form of specialized personnel, professional development, parent and community activities, and program evaluation.

Title IV partially supported the Positive Behavior Support (PBS) program, Peer Assistance and Leadership (PAL) program and counseling and behavioral support services. In addition, Title IV supported the INVEST (Involve Non-violent Values using Education, Self-control techniques, and Trust) and Positive Families programs, two programs involving parent participation that serve students who are removed to the Alternative Learning Center (ALC). Students who are removed for a first-time drug or alcohol offense have the option of participating in INVEST and students who are removed for a first time aggression-related offense have the option of participating in Positive Families. During the 2008-2009 academic year, 326 students participated in INVEST and 171 students participated in Positive Families.

View the full report at <http://www.austinisd.org/about/accountability/ope/reports.phtml> or contact the AISD Department of Program Evaluation, (512) 414-1724.