

AEIS Addendum: AISD School Violence Prevention and Intervention 2009-2010

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 for 2009-2010. In addition, selected findings from the district's Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities grant needs assessment for 2009-2010 have been included, also as required in 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. Discipline Database for PEIMS via DEEDS (Disciplinary Electronic Educational Documentation System)
5. Guidelines for campus IMPACT teams
6. Campus Improvement Plan School Safety Objective
7. AISD Campus and District Safety Plans
8. AISD Board Policy and Procedures for Harassment, Sexual Harassment, and Bullying
9. AISD Student Information Packet

District Training and Resources Used to Prevent/Reduce Violence

1. Campus Training (Groups receiving training are noted)
 - Crimestoppers (AISD Police Dispatchers are trained in answering police and emergency calls).
 - Code of Conduct – students, parents, 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 seek 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
 - Violence prevention curriculum – staff, students
 - 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 – elementary school, 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.

- Districtwide Suicide Prevention Training (QPR Question, Persuade, Refer) for 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 –several professional development training sessions in which counselors may choose to participate.
- Positive Behavior Support – staff at selected campuses.

2. Student Programs

- Curriculum instruction (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 (at 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 30 elementary, 7 middle, and 12 high schools)
- Positive Behavior Support Program (available on 86 campuses)
- Youth leadership, cooperative learning (e.g., Student Council)
- Anti-bullying, anti-harassment (e.g., Expect Respect program - available at 26 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 at 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.

3. Support Staff with Direct Responsibility for Violence Prevention/Reduction
 - Classroom Teachers (Elementary Schools), Science Teachers (Middle Schools), Health Teachers (High Schools)
 - Counselors
 - School to Community Liaisons
 - Parent Support Specialists
 - Behavioral Specialists
 - School Resource Officers
 - District Safety Team – meets monthly to evaluate and discuss district safety and emergency issues
 - Positive Behavior Support Coaches
4. External Consultation/Collaboration 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 & Drug-Free Schools & Communities Evaluation Report, 2009-2010 Selected Findings

The 2009-2010 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:

After a steady decline since 2006-2007, the number of students disciplined for drug offenses increased sharply in 2009-2010 among high school students (from 358 in 2008-2009 to 523 in 2009-2010). The number of students disciplined for alcohol offenses also continued to rise at the high school level (from 54 in 2008-2009 to 66 in 2009-2010) and middle school level (from 12 in 2008-2009 to 19 in 2009-2010).

On the Student Substance Use and Safety Survey, alcohol was the most prevalent substance that students reported using in 2009-2010 at both the high school and middle school levels, with 28% of high school students and 11% of middle school students reporting they used alcohol in the past month.

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 the percentage of high school students disciplined for the same behaviors (17% and 8%, respectively, in 2009-2010).

The greatest percentage of middle school student respondents (29%) reported student fighting and physical aggression as the most serious problem at their campuses. However, at both the high school and middle school levels, there was a reported decline in most types of bullying (e.g. verbal, social, written) in 2009-2010 compared to 2008-2009.

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 2009-2010 school year, AISD received a total Title IV grant of \$332,886 which was expended on district wide student programs, support services and campus-level initiatives at selected campuses within AISD and in the private, non-profit, and delinquent facilities within the district's boundaries. A total of 84,676 public school students and 3,297 private school students were served by Title IV funds in 2009-2010.

In addition to programs aimed at student's education on violence and substance use prevention, Title IV funding was used in 2009-2010 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 2009-2010 academic year, 332 students participated in INVEST and 126 students participated in Positive Families.

View the Substance Use and Safety Survey report at http://www.austinisd.org/inside/docs/ope_09-53.c_District_SSUSS_09_10.pdf or contact the AISD Department of Program Evaluation, (512) 414-1724.