

U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration

Mentoring, Educational, and Employment Strategies to Improve Academic, Social, and Career Pathway Outcomes

GRANT: Persistently Dangerous Schools Initiative
AMOUNT: \$34,750,000
DURATION: 36 months

POPULATION SERVED: Schenectady School District, Baltimore City Public School System and School District of Philadelphia.

DESCRIPTION The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced in the Federal Register on July 24, 2009, the availability of \$34 million for grants to serve high schools that have been designated as persistently dangerous by State Educational Agencies for the 2008-2009 school year.

The goal of these grants is to reduce violence within these schools through a combination of mentoring, educational, employment, case management, and violence prevention strategies. Expected outcomes for the initiative include: decreased dropout rates, a reduction in school violence; and improved student behavior and academic performance.

Grants of \$6.27 million have been awarded to serve high schools with enrollments of 1,000 students or more. Grants of \$3.4 million have been awarded to serve high schools with enrollments of less than 1,000 students.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

- **Mentoring:** Each grant must include an adult volunteer mentoring component integrating violence prevention, education, employment, and case management components provided through the grant.
- **Education Strategies:** This component can include school restructuring efforts and alternative learning strategies aimed at getting at the underlying causes of violence, high dropout rates, and low student achievement in the schools.
- **Efforts to Improve the School Environment and Student Behavior:** This component can include conflict resolution classes, anti-bullying efforts, student courts, peer mediation, anger management classes, crisis intervention strategies, increased involvement of parents, and training teachers in effective classroom management.

Overall the strategies and interventions used should create reforms which affect the whole school; target groups of at-risk youth, such as entering ninth graders and repeating ninth graders; and work with individual youth who present their greatest challenges relating to misconduct, truancy, and poor school performance.

Grantee	Schenectady City School District Schenectady High School 1252 Albany Street Schenectady, New York 12304
Amount	\$6.27 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Schenectady High School has been identified as a Persistently Dangerous School two years in a row and has less than a 50% graduation rate. After conducting the Prevention Needs Assessment to survey student's measures of risk and protective factors, the school was able to come up with a plan to address a number of issues. These include academic failure, dysfunctional family structures, overcrowding, lack of personal attention, community dysfunction and peer problems, and lack of relevance. Proposed outcomes include providing 160 mentor matches, increasing daily attendance rates, increasing the passing rate for state testing, providing 500 students with paid work experiences, and providing 90% of high risk students with case management. They are planning to hire a Program coordinator and provide 170 existing teachers, and 200 staff, with stipends.
Partnerships	Boys & Girls Club
Contact	Lori McKenna mckennal@schenectady.k12.ny.us

Grantee	School District of Philadelphia Samuel Fels High School 400 North Broad Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
Amount	\$6.27 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Samuel Fels High School is a comprehensive neighborhood high school with a total enrollment of 1,807 students. The majority of students come from low-income families, with 73 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Ninety-eight percent of students come from minority backgrounds. The school will implement a new mentoring program serving 150 at-risk 9th and 10th graders each year; Career Academies; double doses of Math and English for 9th graders scoring at or below the basic level; a four-week Summer Bridge Program for entering and returning 9th graders; internships for 11th and 12th graders; and an in-school suspension program to reduce the number of students receiving out-of-school suspensions. The school will also implement a new writing course for all 10th and 11th graders, and will hire four new teachers to carry this out. The school will start a Student Success Center to reengage youth who have dropped out and to help students apply for college.
Partnerships	Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Contact	Courtney Collins-Shapiro cacollinsshapiro@philasd.org

Grantee	School District of Philadelphia Olney West High School 400 North Broad Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
Amount	\$6.27 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Olney West High School is a comprehensive neighborhood high school with a total enrollment of 1,063 students. The overwhelming majority of students come from low-income families, with 85 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Ninety percent of students are African-American or Latino. The school will implement a new mentoring program in which 100 students will get adult mentors and 75 students will receive peer mentoring; Career Academies; smaller Math and English classes for 9th and 11th graders; a four-week Summer Bridge Program for entering and returning 9th graders; internships for 11th and 12th graders; an in-school suspension program to reduce the number of students receiving out-of-school suspensions; and a Twilight School to serve highly at-risk students. The school will start a Student Success Center to reengage youth who have dropped out and to help students apply for college. The school will also hire four master teachers to work to improve teachers at the school.
Partnerships	Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Contact	Courtney Collins-Shapiro cacollinsshapiro@philasd.org

Grantee	School District of Philadelphia Frankford High School 400 North Broad Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
Amount	\$6.27 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Frankford High School is a comprehensive neighborhood high school with a total enrollment of 2,127 students. The overwhelming majority of students come from low-income families, with 82 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Sixty-one percent of students are African-American or Latino. The school will implement a new mentoring program serving 125 of the most at-risk 9th graders each year; Career Academies; double doses of Math and English for 9th graders scoring at or below the basic level; a four-week Summer Bridge Program for entering and returning 9th graders; internships for 11th and 12th graders; an in-school suspension program to reduce the number of students receiving out-of-school suspensions; and a Credit Retrieval Academy serving up to 120 students who are one or more years off-track to graduation. The school will also start a Student Success Center to reengage youth who have dropped out and to help students apply for college.
Partnerships	Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Contact	Courtney Collins-Shapiro cacollinsshapiro@philasd.org

Grantee	School District of Philadelphia Edison High School 400 North Broad Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19130
Amount	\$6.27 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Edison High School is a comprehensive neighborhood high school with a total enrollment of 2,335 students. The overwhelming majority of students come from low-income families, with 86 percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunches. Eighty percent of students are Latino. The school will implement a new mentoring program serving 250 at-risk 9th graders each year; Career Academies; double doses of Math and English for 9th graders scoring at or below the basic level; a four-week Summer Bridge Program for entering and returning 9th graders; internships for 11th and 12th graders; and an in-school suspension program to reduce the number of students receiving out-of-school suspensions. The school will also start a Student Success Center to reengage youth who have dropped out and to help students apply for college.
Partnerships	Philadelphia Workforce Investment Board, the United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
Contact	Courtney Collins-Shapiro cacollinsshapiro@philasd.org

Grantee	School District of Baltimore City Reginald F. Lewis High School 200 E. North Avenue Baltimore, Maryland 21202
Amount	\$3.4 million
Description of Grantee proposal & Program	Reginald F. Lewis High School has been classified as a Persistently Dangerous School for three consecutive years. The school proposes to create an initiative to improve both the learning environment and student behavior. The school's program will also include professional development for staff, anger management/conflict resolution sessions for students, and a peer mediation program. Implementation includes creating a Talent Development High School; 9 th Grade Success Academy and a twilight program; mentoring for 100 students, case management for all 120 incoming 9 th graders, and case management for 75 repeating 9 th graders; and paid internships and career exploration opportunities. The school will also hire 3 teachers and staff coaches.
Partnerships	YWCA, Johns Hopkins University, Mayors Office of Employment Development
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