

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



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Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities

Resource Summary

	<i>Budget Authority (in Millions)</i>		
	FY 2006 Final	FY 2007 Estimate	FY 2008 Request
Drug Resources by Function			
Prevention	489.807	524.764	275.000
Total Drug Resources by Function	\$489.807	\$524.764	\$275.000
Drug Resources by Decision Unit			
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities			
National Programs	143.307	173.122	175.000
<i>Researched-Based Grants to LEAs (non-add)</i>	<i>0.000</i>	<i>30.000</i>	<i>59.000</i>
<i>Safe Schools/Healthy Students (non-add)</i>	<i>79.200</i>	<i>79.200</i>	<i>79.200</i>
<i>Student Drug Testing (non-add)</i>	<i>10.380</i>	<i>10.380</i>	<i>16.850</i>
<i>Student Drug Testing Institute (non-add)</i>	–	–	1.000
State Grants Program	346.500	351.642	100.000
Total Drug Resources by Decision Unit	\$489.807	\$524.764	\$275.000
Drug Resources Personnel Summary			
Total FTEs (direct only)	–	–	–
Drug Resources as a Percent of Budget			
Total Agency Budget (in billions)	\$56.5	\$56.0	\$56.0
Drug Resources Percentage	0.87%	0.94%	0.49%

Program Summary

Mission

The Department of Education (Education) administers programs to help ensure that all students can meet challenging standards and improve elementary and secondary education including: special education and early intervention programs for children with disabilities; English language acquisition for limited English proficient and immigrant children; career, technical, and adult education; and higher education. In addition, Education carries out research, data collection, and civil rights enforcement activities. The programs funded under the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities (SDFSC) Act comprise the only Education operations included in the Drug Control Budget.

The SDFSC program provides funding for research-based approaches to drug and violence prevention that promote the health and well being of students in elementary and secondary schools and in institutions of higher education. The program supports the prevention mission of the National Drug Control Strategy, which is to stop drug use before it starts. Under the SDFSC Act, funds may be appropriated directly for State Grants and for National Programs.

Budget

In FY 2008, Education requests \$275.0 million for drug control activities, which is a decrease of \$249.8 million from the FY 2007 level. This budget supports important Administration priorities, including the Student Drug Testing program and effective research-based prevention programs. Key Education programs are highlighted below.

National Programs

Total FY 2008 Request: \$175.0 million

(Includes +\$1.9 million in program changes)

SDFSC National Programs fund a variety of drug and violence prevention activities, primarily through grants to local educational agencies (LEAs), to help promote safe and drug-free learning environments for students. Examples include: drug prevention or school safety programs that are informed by scientifically based research or that use such research to demonstrate their effectiveness; comprehensive, community-wide “Safe Schools/Healthy Students” drug and violence prevention projects; and school-based drug testing for students. These programs are explained more fully below. SDFSC National Programs also authorizes: (1) mentoring programs; (2) Project SERV (School Emergency Response to Violence), a crisis response program that provides education-related services to LEAs in which the learning environment has been disrupted due to a violent or traumatic crisis; and (3) School Emergency Preparedness Initiatives. However, since these programs have no clear drug control nexus, funds for these three activities are not included in the Drug Control Budget.

The SDFSC National Programs is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and is, therefore, subject to reauthorization this year. Concurrent with the FY 2008 Budget request, the Administration proposes to reauthorize and consolidate SDFSC National Programs into a single, flexible discretionary program focused on four areas: (1) emergency management planning; (2) preventing violence and drug use; (3) school culture and climate, including character education; and, (4) other needs related to improving students’ learning environment. Under the reauthorized program, grantees would be required to implement interventions that reflect scientifically based research.

Research-Based Grants to LEAs

FY 2008 Request: \$59.0 million

(Includes +\$29.0 million in program changes)

The FY 2007 resources of \$30.0 million will be used to support research-based grant assistance to LEAs. With these funds, LEAs will be required either to carry out one or more drug or violence prevention programs, practices, or interventions that rigorous evaluation has demonstrated to be effective, or to carry out a rigorous evaluation of a promising program, practice, or intervention, thereby increasing the knowledge base of what works in the field. In making awards, Education will ensure the equitable distribution of grants among urban, suburban, and rural LEAs.

FY 2008 Program Changes (+\$29.0 million)

The Budget includes an increase of \$29.0 million for this program. Of the \$59.0 million requested for FY 2008, approximately \$30.0 million will fund an estimated 85 continuation grant awards for multi-year projects that begin in FY 2007.

The remaining \$29.0 million finances a second new cohort of 83 grants.

Safe Schools/Healthy Students

FY 2008 Request: \$79.2 million

(Includes no program changes)

The FY 2007 resources of \$79.2 million will allow the Safe Schools/Healthy Students program to continue to support LEAs and communities that develop and implement a comprehensive set of programs and services designed to prevent youth drug use and violence, support early childhood development activities, and provide student mental health services. The initiative also requires that major community systems serving students – schools, law enforcement, juvenile justice, and the local public mental health authority – work collaboratively to use data to assess needs and provide programs and services.

This initiative is administered jointly by the Departments of Education and Justice, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration at the Department of Health and Human Services. In FY 2007, these three agencies plan to implement significant changes to improve the operation of this initiative. Most significant among these changes is the effort to strengthen grant application requirements to ensure that applicants not only can demonstrate the commitment of required partners (LEA, local law enforcement, juvenile justice

agencies, and the local public mental health authority) to support the project if it receives funding, but also to demonstrate a preexisting partnership among these entities on issues of school safety, drug and violence prevention, and/or healthy childhood development. Applications would need to include a “logic model” that reflects, by project element, needs, gaps, goals, objectives, performance indicators, partnered roles, and proposed activities, curricula, and programs. The project period of the grants will be increased from 3 to 4 years to give grantees more time to accomplish their stated goals and objectives.

FY 2008 Program Changes (none)

The Budget does not propose any funding changes for this program.

Student Drug Testing

FY 2008 Request: \$16.9 million

(Includes +\$6.5 million in program changes)

The FY 2007 resources of \$10.4 million support Education in providing grants to LEAs and public and private entities to develop, implement, or expand school-based drug testing programs for students. The drug testing funded by these grants must be part of a comprehensive drug prevention program in the schools served and must provide for the referral to treatment or counseling of students identified as drug users. The projects must also be consistent with recent Supreme Court decisions regarding student drug testing and ensure the confidentiality of testing results. A portion of the funds support a national impact evaluation of random mandatory drug testing programs.

FY 2008 Program Changes (+\$6.5 million)

The Budget includes an increase of \$6.5 million for this program, which will support an estimated 100 additional new grants to expand the implementation of student drug testing programs.

Student Drug Testing Institute

FY 2008 Request: \$1.0 million

(Includes +\$1.0 million in program changes)

Supporting the implementation of successful student drug testing programs in schools is an important step in helping the Nation’s students remain healthy and ready to learn. An important aspect of Education’s leadership in this area is assisting schools in developing programs that are responsive to locals needs. In FY 2008,

the Department will establish a Student Drug Testing Institute whose mission will be to help schools develop, implement, and evaluate programs that exist as part of a broader prevention framework.

FY 2008 Program Changes (+\$1.0 million)

The Budget proposes the creation of a Student Drug Testing Institute, which will assist schools in developing, implementing, and evaluating student drug testing programs. It will also provide training, technical assistance, information on data collection and evaluation methods, and outreach to school districts in carrying out student drug testing programs.

Other National Program Activities

FY 2008 Request: \$18.95 million

(Includes –\$34.6 million in program changes)

FY 2007 funding of \$53.5 million includes: \$7.3 million in financial and technical assistance to institutions of higher education for drug prevention and campus safety programs; \$2.5 million for data management grants; \$32.4 million for Alcohol Abuse Reduction activities designed to implement research-based alcohol abuse prevention programs in secondary schools; and \$11.2 million for other activities that support and improve drug and violence prevention efforts, such as evaluation, data collection and analysis, development and dissemination of materials and information, and other forms of technical assistance.

FY 2008 Program Changes (–\$34.6 million)

The Budget proposes to eliminate the Alcohol Abuse Reduction program and includes reductions to impact evaluation and data management activities. Resources for institutions of higher education for drug prevention and campus safety programs for students attending such institutions are maintained.

State Grants Program

Total FY 2008 Request: \$100.0 million

(Includes –\$251.6 million in program changes)

Under current law, State Grants program funds are allocated by formula to states and territories, half on the basis of school-aged population and half on the basis of each state’s share of the prior-year’s federal funding for “Concentration Grants to LEAs for improving the academic achievement of disadvantaged students” under

section 1124A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Generally, Governors receive 20 percent and State Educational Agencies (SEAs) 80 percent, of each state's allocation. Governors may use funds to award competitive grants and contracts to LEAs, community-based organizations, and other public and private organizations for activities to provide safe, orderly, and drug-free schools and communities through programs and activities that complement and support activities of LEAs. SEAs are required to subgrant at least 93 percent of allocations to LEAs – subgrants are based 60 percent on LEA shares of prior-year funding under Part A, of Title I of the ESEA and 40 percent on enrollment. LEAs may use SDFSC State Grants funds for a variety of activities that seek to prevent or reduce violence and delinquency and the use, possession, and distribution of illegal drugs in schools.

The FY 2007 resources of \$351.6 million will support formula grants to SEAs and Governors, SEA sub-grants to LEAs, and Governors' award recipients under the current program structure.

FY 2008 Program Changes (–\$251.6 million)

The SDFSC State Grants program is authorized by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and is, therefore, subject to reauthorization this year. As part of No Child Left Behind reauthorization, the Administration is proposing to restructure significantly the SDFSC State Grants program. The Administration requests \$100.0 million in FY 2008 for the restructured program. Under the reauthorized program, the Department would allocate SDFSC State Grants funds by formula to SEAs. SEAs would use the funds to provide school districts with training, technical assistance, and information regarding effective models and strategies to create safe, healthy and secure schools that, to the extent possible, reflect scientifically based research, along with a limited number of sub-grants to high need districts.

A key difference between the program as proposed for reauthorization and the current program is that the reauthorized program would focus on building state capacity to assist school districts in creating safe, drug-free schools, and secure school environments. While states would be authorized to make subgrants to high need

LEAs and other entities, there would be no within-state formula and no expectation that every LEA in a state would receive a grant. Most funding to LEAs will be provided with National Programs funds for activities in areas of major national priority.

Performance

Introduction

This section on the FY 2006 performance of the SDFSC program is based on agency GPRA documents and the PART review of the State Grants program, discussed earlier in the Executive Summary. The table includes conclusions from the PART assessment of the SDFSC State Grants program, as well as performance measures, targets and achievements for the latest year for which data are available for SDFSC State Grants and National Programs.

The 2006 PART reassessment rated the SDFSC State Grants program as “Results Not Demonstrated,” noting that the structure of SDFSC is flawed, spreading funding too broadly to support quality, research-based interventions and failing to target schools and communities in greatest need of assistance. While the program currently has performance measures on the extent to which recipients of SDFSC State Grants program funds are implementing research-based practices and undertaking such programs with fidelity to the research, coupled with national survey data on the prevalence of drug use and violence, data are not yet available for all measures. Trend data are currently available only for the prevalence measures.

The Department has identified outcome measures for SDFSC National Programs grant competitions. In 2006, grantees reported baseline data for all of those measures. The Department has established performance targets for future years against those baselines.

Department of Education				
PART Review				
Year of Last Review: 2006		Rating Received: Results Not Demonstrated		
Evaluation Area	Score	Review Highlights		
Purpose	60	The structure of the program is flawed. It spreads funding too broadly to support quality interventions and fails to target schools and communities in greatest need of assistance.		
Planning	62			
Management	78			
Results	8			
Selected Measures of Performance (State Grants)			FY 2005 Target	FY 2005 Achieved
» Percent of students offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property during past 12 months.*			28	25
» Percent of students who used marijuana one or more times during past 30 days.*			21	20
» Percent of students in grades 9-12 who had five or more alcohol drinks in a row (within a couple of hours) one or more times during past 30 days.*			27	26
» Percent of drug and violence prevention programs/practices supported with SDFSC State Grants funds, that are research-based.			**	***
» Percent of drug and violence prevention programs/practices supported with SDFSC State Grants funds, implemented with fidelity.			**	***
Selected Measures of Performance (National Grants)			FY 2006 Target	FY 2006 Achieved
» Percent of Alcohol Abuse Reduction grantees whose target students show measurable decrease in binge drinking.			****	50
» Percent of Alcohol Abuse Reduction grantees showing measurable increase in percent of target students who believe alcohol abuse is harmful to their health.			****	56
» Percent of Alcohol Abuse Reduction grantees that show measurable increase in percent of target students who disapprove of alcohol abuse.			****	67
» Percent of Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant sites that experience a decrease in substance use during the 3-year grant period.			****	75
» Percent of grantees experiencing 5% annual reduction in incidence of drug use by students in target population served by grants.			****	33

* YRBS data available only biennially.

** Not established: 2005 is the baseline year and targets have been identified only for subsequent years.

*** 2005 baseline data expected in 2007.

**** Not Established: 2006 is the baseline year, and targets have been established only for subsequent years.

Note: Measures for the SDFSC State Grants program are based on national surveys. Measures for the SDFSC National Programs are based on an analysis of grantee performance reports.

Discussion

Education has completed data collection and is currently analyzing data as part of a study to determine the extent to which SDFSC State Grants program funds were used during the 2004-05 school year to support research-based programs and practices. When the study is completed in 2007, it will also report on the extent to which those programs were implemented with fidelity to the research. The findings from this study provide the baseline data for two of the SDFSC State Grants program performance measures in the table.

The Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative provides support to local educational agencies to implement a comprehensive plan to create safe, disciplined, and drug-free environments. Although complete performance information for all grantees is not currently available, an example of positive outcomes can be found in Hiram, Maine (originally funded in August 2005). Through a combination of prevention activities, this district has reduced self-reported, 30-day alcohol use from a previous year baseline of 43 percent to 33 percent for 6th, 8th, & 10th graders. For the same time period, binge drinking (for the previous two weeks) decreased from 25 percent to 9 percent for 8th grade students, and from 23 percent to 18 percent for 10th grade students. In addition, previous 30-day use of inhalants decreased from 7 percent to 6 percent for 6th graders and from 12 percent to 3 percent for 8th graders.