



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

THE DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 28, 2001

Dear Colleague:

In 1999, the Department of Education established an Expert Panel on Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools for the purpose of expanding current knowledge on what works to prevent substance use, violent behavior, or other conduct problems and recognizing those programs that demonstrate effectiveness.

The Panel deliberated for more than a year before returning a recommendation of nine programs that merited an "exemplary" designation and 33 programs that merited a "promising" designation. These programs were announced in January 2001 and a complete list is enclosed for your information. Additional information is available on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools web site at [www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OESE/SDFS). Also, a publication containing a comprehensive description of each of the programs will be available in early January.

At the heart of President Bush's "No Child Left Behind" plan is a strong commitment to funding what works combined with accountability for results. The list of Promising and Exemplary programs identified by the Department of Education is by no means an exhaustive list of effective programs that may be in operation. We want to reiterate that Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funds may be used to support other programs that are consistent with the Principles of Effectiveness, including the requirement to demonstrate evidence of effectiveness.

Other Federal agencies such as the National Institutes of Mental Health, the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention in the Department of Justice are also engaged in identifying effective programs. We encourage you to examine the results of their efforts to find other evidence-based programs that may fit your particular needs. Internet links to these agencies are on the Safe and Drug-Free Schools web site.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William D. Hansen".

William D. Hansen

Enclosure