

**SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS COORDINATOR
HANDBOOK**

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SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT
TITLE IV: PART A

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

MISSION

The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS) program “is creating safe schools, responding to crises, drug abuse and violence prevention, ensuring the health and well being of students and promoting development of good character and citizenship.”

OSDFS administers, coordinates, and recommends policy for improving quality and excellence of programs and activities that are designed to:

Provide financial assistance for drug and violence prevention activities and activities that promote the health and well-being of students in elementary and secondary schools, and institutions of higher education. Activities may be carried out by State and local educational agencies and by other public and private nonprofit organizations.

Participate in the formulation and development of ED program policy and legislative proposals and in overall Administration policies related to violence and drug prevention; drafting program regulations.

Participate in interagency committees, groups, and partnerships related to drug and violence prevention, coordinating with other Federal agencies on issues related to comprehensive school health, and advising the Secretary on the formulation of comprehensive school health education policy.

Participate with other Federal agencies in the development of a national research agenda for drug and violence prevention.

Administer the Department's programs relating to character and civics education.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) “...is to support programs that prevent violence in and around schools; that prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs; that involve parents and communities; and that are coordinated with related federal, state, school, and community efforts and resources to

foster a safe and drug-free learning environment that supports student academic achievement.” (Title IV, Part A, Section 4002. Purpose)

All programs and activities funded through the SDFSCA are intended to supplement school divisions’ comprehensive prevention plans and support the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* Performance Goals:

Goal 4: All students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug-free, and conducive to learning.

PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

The SDFSCA requires that programs comply with the **Principles of Effectiveness** set forth in Section 4115(a). To be funded, programs must be:

1. based on an assessment of objective data about the drug and violence problems in the schools and communities to be served.
2. based on performance measures aimed at ensuring that the schools and communities have a safe, orderly, and drug-free learning environment.
3. grounded in scientifically based research that provides evidence that the program to be used will reduce violence and illegal drug use.
4. based on an assessment of objective data about the drug and violence problems in the schools and communities to be served.
5. include meaningful and ongoing consultation with and input from parents in the development of the application and administration of the program or activity.
6. evaluated periodically against locally selected performance measures. Results used to refine, improve, and strengthen the program and made available to the public.

Link

<http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osdfs/index.html>

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF EDUCATION
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN –
OBJECTIVE EIGHT AND STRATEGIES**

the needs of students.								
9. Collect and analyze discipline data and support the use of the Prevention through Information data system and programs.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10. Provide annual training to school divisions on discipline-related data collection to ensure accurate and consistent data collection, analysis, and statewide reporting.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11. Support opportunities for students with behavioral challenges to have access to high quality alternative programs in lieu of suspension or expulsion.	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

The full plan may be viewed at:
http://www.pen.k12.va.us/VDOE/VA_Board/comprehensiveplan.pdf

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION COLLABORATIVE**

GOSAP Collaborative



Collaborating for Effective Prevention Efforts

In 2002, GOSAP brought together the 13 state agencies that have some sort of prevention in their missions to form the GOSAP Collaborative. Comprised of state-level prevention leaders who have the authority to influence agency prevention funding and administrative practices, the GOSAP Collaborative is reshaping how prevention works in Virginia to improve its effectiveness and efficiency at both the state and local levels. It has become a model of the concept espoused by the Council on Virginia's Future to "create partnerships for shared accountability to ensure that we address broad issues in an effective and collaborative manner." (Interim Report of The Council on Virginia's Future, January 12, 2005, p.4)

Under GOSAP's leadership, Virginia's prevention agencies are improving communication, building agreement, cooperating and working as partners, sharing resources, and increasing consistency to simplify processes and increase accountability in prevention practice. These agencies must work together because research shows that the risk and protective factors that influence whether a child is likely to succumb to substance abuse are the same factors that influence other problem behaviors including: delinquency, gang involvement, school drop-out, violence and others. Trying to address one problem behavior alone is inefficient.

Prevention is not about "touchy-feely, warm fuzzy" programs that are nice to do when there is plenty of money. Prevention is about addressing the problems that weaken communities and work against a strong Virginia. The Collaborative supports an evidence-based prevention model that requires:

- assessing community needs using objective social indicator data, information on existing resources, key informant interviews, etc. to determine needs and identify gaps in service;
- prioritizing needs, developing consensus around those needs and determining what realistically the community can do to change the identified issues;

- developing measurable goals and objectives to address the priorities;
- selecting rigorously evaluated interventions (evidence-based programs) and implementing them with fidelity to the model;
- collaborating to build resources necessary to sustain the evidence-based programs; and
- evaluating interventions for accountability and improvement.

Evidence-based prevention will assist the Commonwealth in meeting many of the long-term objectives of the Council on Virginia's Future. Most of these objectives require community-level change. A statewide, one-size-fits-all initiative is not a practical methodology with Virginia's culture and diversity. Movement on the indicators identified by the Council will require state and local partnerships to address locality-specific needs. Evidence-based prevention accommodates local autonomy and:

- supports sound resource management by requiring localities to objectively assess and prioritize needs, then use programs proven to be effective in reducing negative behaviors. Many federal funding streams, and GOSAP, require this model.
- involves citizens in the assessment process, exposes them to objective data about their community and includes them in prioritizing the community's needs.
- prepares children to learn, encourages youth to stay in school, and improves academic achievement.
- strengthens families and builds healthy minds and bodies.
- reduces crime, delinquency, gang involvement, substance abuse and violence.
- improves transportation safety by reducing drunk driving hazards.
- supports business development and promotes positive economic growth by developing well-managed communities with involved citizens, an educated workforce, stronger families, with healthy habits for lower worker absenteeism, and a low crime rate.

Virginia's prevention agencies are collaborating to strengthen our communities through positive youth development.

In Virginia, prevention works. Most community-based youth substance abuse prevention programs now being used throughout the Commonwealth operate what are referred to as "evidence based," model programs that have been identified by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for their proven results. The GOSAP plays an important role in helping more communities in Virginia access and use such model programs. It created and sustains vital coalitions that collaborate on virtually all aspects of youth substance abuse prevention. Two of the principal coalitions that have been instrumental in making valuable improvements to Virginia's statewide prevention system have been the GOSAP Collaborative, representing state-level agencies that are involved in prevention and promote positive youth development, and the GOSAP Advisory Council, an important link to community-based providers throughout Virginia.

The GOSAP Collaborative, comprised of 12 state agencies and the Governor's Office, is the principal representative body within the Virginia prevention system for state-level prevention specialists, leaders and program-fund administrators. (See member agencies listed on our home page.) Most members are high-level managers in state government agencies that have some significant degree of involvement in the Commonwealth's alcohol, tobacco and other drugs prevention efforts, either through funding provided to local- and community-level organizations, direct service provision to youth and families, or direct policy development at the state and/or federal levels to guide the overall prevention community throughout Virginia.

Executive Directive 4 (2006)

In November 2006, Governor Tim Kaine formally established the GOSAP Collaborative. He gave the Collaborative specific powers and duties concerning: collaboration to enhance capacity, improve efficiency and produce results; infrastructure to sustain and integrate prevention into practice; and data to target resources and monitor results.

Executive Directive 4 (2006) specifically tasks the Collaborative with:

- advising the Governor and Cabinet on prevention-related policy and operations;
- coordinating strategic planning efforts and initiatives;
- developing and implementing prevention planning and management standards;
- encouraging and facilitating wider use of evidence-based prevention;
- prioritizing, coordinating and leveraging existing prevention resources;
- identifying resource gaps and recommending strategies to sustain prevention;
- reporting consequence, incidence and prevalence data on preventable behavior;
- using the data "at both state and community levels, to allocate resources, plan programs, services and strategies, and monitor community-level change;"
- researching and determining the feasibility of a statewide youth survey;
- reporting to the Governor annually activities, barriers and progress toward a statewide prevention infrastructure; and
- recommending to the Governor annually steps to fully implement and sustain a statewide prevention infrastructure.

Thirteen agencies in Virginia have responsibility for one or more aspects of prevention. These agencies comprise the GOSAP Collaborative to improve communication, build agreement, cooperate and work as partners, share resources, and increase consistency to simplify processes and increase accountability in prevention practice. These agencies must work together because research shows that the factors that put a child at risk for one problem behavior put them at risk for other problems too. But research also shows that increasing protective factors like healthy beliefs and clear standards, bonding, meaningful opportunities, skills and recognition will build strong citizens to keep Virginia moving forward.

Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC)

Department of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS)

Department of Education (DOE)

Department of Fire Programs (DFP)

Department of Health (VDH)

Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ)

Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Substance Abuse Services (MHMR)

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)

Department of Social Services (DSS)

Virginia National Guard (VNG)

Virginia State Police (VSP)

Virginia Tobacco Settlement Foundation (VTSF)

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