



NEWS RELEASE

Waterford School District, 1150 Scott Lake Road, Waterford, MI 48328

U.S. Department of Education, Health, Human Services, and Justice Awards \$5.7 Million to Waterford School District to Promote Safe Schools, Healthy Students

July 7, 2008, Waterford, Mich. – The U.S. Department of Education, Health, Human Services, and Justice announced that the Waterford School District is the recipient of the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Grant, awarding a total of \$5,745,460 million to be used over the next four years. This award will allow the District, in partnership with local public mental health, law enforcement, and juvenile justice entities, to implement a comprehensive, community-wide plan that focuses on the following elements:

- Safe school environments and violence prevention activities
- Alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention activities
- Student behavioral, social, and emotional supports
- Mental health services
- Early childhood social and emotional learning programs

These comprehensive plans are designed to provide students, schools, and families with a network of effective services, supports, and activities that help students develop the skills and emotional resilience necessary to promote positive mental health, engage in pro-social behavior, and prevent violent behavior and drug use; create schools and communities that are a safe, disciplined, and drug-free environment; and engage parents, community organizations, and social service

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agencies to help develop an infrastructure that will sustain the grant components after federal funding has ended.

Some of the projects that will be implemented within the Waterford School District include:

Collaboration:

- Expanded collaboration and resources between the Waterford School District and Oakland County Mental Health; Oakland County Circuit Court; Catholic Social Services of Oakland County; Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency; Oakland University; and the Waterford Police Department.

Programming:

- After school program will be put in place for all secondary schools and will target at-risk students.
- A Head Start classroom will be added.
- Hispanic Preschool Program will be added
- First Families program will be expanded.
- All buildings will have teams trained in Non-Violent Crisis Intervention.
- Expanded Anti-Bullying, FAST, Conflict Resolution, Restorative Justice, All-Stars, Project Youth, & Reconnecting Youth programming.

Equipment:

- Complete electronic access system.
- Upgraded transportation digital video cameras and equipment
- Student record system upgrade to include discipline tracking.
- Additional security surveillance cameras

This highly competitive grant attracted 355 applications nationally. Fifty-seven grants were awarded in 27 states. The Waterford School District is one of two in Michigan, and the only District in Oakland County, to receive the grant award.

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