

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROJECT INFORMATION:

Project Title: Title IV Community Service Grant Program

Applicants: Educational Programs Department

Funding Agency: The US Department of Education through the Florida Department of Education

Grant Funds Requested: \$27,776

Grant Type: Competitive

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Florida Department of Education awarded Broward County Schools a contract for \$27,776 to support the development, implementation, and dissemination of structured service programs involving K-12 students who are suspended, expelled, or in alternative programs in lieu of expulsion. Funding is from the Title IV Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities program.

The Educational Programs Department on behalf of Cypress Run Alternative Center will implement the Public Achievement service-learning program. Public Achievement is a research-based, national youth development and civic engagement initiative that challenges young people to work together to solve community problems. Students will research and work on real-world problems under the guidance and encouragement of trained coaches. Outcomes include development of team-building and problem-solving skills, and improvement of behavior and academic performance through effective and responsive citizenship. The project will target approximately 80 students. The program concept and school participation was approved by Area Superintendents. Partners include Broward Community College and the Center for Democracy and Citizenship.

PROJECT OUTCOMES

Proposed outcomes include improving students' behavior and academic performance by educating students on the concepts and skills of effective and responsible citizenship, with emphasis on team building and problem solving.

PROJECT EVALUATION

The application contains an evaluation component to ascertain if project outcomes are met. Measures include pre-post test attitudinal surveys and focus groups that provide interpretive data and information necessary for successful implementation in the program and that measure students' changes in attitude/behavior, students' ability to define and solve problems, the impact of the project on the community.

RELEVANCE TO DISTRICT PRIORITIES/SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Projects proposed through these applications address the District Goal *All students will achieve at their highest potential.*

PROJECT STATUS

Project status: New Continuation

BASIS FOR PROJECT METHODOLOGY

Public Achievement has been used throughout the U.S. as a vehicle for increasing student achievement, combating truancy, promoting diversity and equity, and creating a close-knit relationship between schools and communities. Research has showed that youth involved in Public Achievement developed skills working in groups and improved communication skills.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

The project will be managed by the Educational Programs Department.

PROJECT PARTICIPANTS/SITES

The funding opportunity was disseminated to various District Departments and to the three behavioral alternative centers. The Educational Programs Department and the three behavioral centers collaborated to develop a proposal responding to this opportunity. The Area Superintendents endorsed the concept and the inclusion of the three alternative centers in the project. The State chose to fund only the Cypress Run program.

PROJECT IMPACT

At the completion of the project, the district will have developed the internal capacity to continue efforts after grant funding ceases with a minimum of continued support.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The positive financial impact is \$27,776. The source of funds is the U.S. Department of Education through the Florida Department of Education. There is no additional financial impact to the school district.