



Exciting New Partnership Opportunity: School-Based HIV/STD and Pregnancy Prevention

The Michigan Department of Education is now offering 15 Michigan school districts an opportunity to participate in an important five-year initiative to improve adolescent health through school-based HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention education.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) was one of 19 State Education Agencies that recently received a five-year grant from the CDC, Division of Adolescent and School Health (CDC/DASH), entitled *Promoting Adolescent Health Through School-Based HIV/STD Prevention*.

Why This Is Needed

In 2010, young people ages 13 to 24 accounted for 21% of all new HIV infections in the United States. Nearly half of the 19 million new STDs reported each year are among young people ages 15 to 24. Well-planned and implemented comprehensive school health education has been shown to positively influence students' health-related knowledge, skills and behaviors. Schools, in concert with families and communities, can play a key role in implementing effective sexual health education programs.

Initiative Goals

This initiative is designed to build the capacity of Michigan school districts to develop and implement sustainable program activities to:

- ✓ Reduce HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) among adolescents.
- ✓ Reduce disparities in HIV and other STDs experienced by specific adolescent sub-populations.
- ✓ Reduce teen pregnancy rates.

Program activities are also expected to reduce chronic absenteeism and dropout while improving school connectedness and academic achievement.

Initiative Plan

The MDE will partner with 15 school districts to provide training and technical assistance to do the following:

- ✓ Deliver exemplary sexual health education emphasizing HIV, other STD and pregnancy prevention.
- ✓ Improve adolescents' access to key sexual health services (e.g., testing for HIV, other STDs and pregnancy; contraception; HPV vaccinations) available in school-based and linked health centers and/or in community agencies.
- ✓ Establish safe and supportive environments for students and staff.
- ✓ Implement policies and procedures related to safe and supportive environments, access to health services, and exemplary sexual health education.

The initiative is currently funded from **August 2013 to July 2018**. The focus will be on secondary schools. It will include an additional focus on providing safe and supportive environments for a group of young people at disproportionate risk: lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth.

Eligibility and Timelines

All Local Education Agencies (LEAs) may apply. Participating districts need to meet certain minimum eligibility requirements. If MDE receives more than 15 applications, districts will be selected based on a variety of factors such as need, geography, capacity, and readiness.

Applications will be available October 18, and are due by November 13, 2013.

Benefits to School Districts

- ✓ Ensure that you are in compliance with all state mandates and requirements.
- ✓ Receive the latest resources, research, and best practices.
- ✓ Receive no cost, technical assistance on activities such as running effective Sex Education Advisory Boards, selecting quality curricula and providing effective professional development.
- ✓ Receive no cost, curriculum-specific training for classroom teachers. Includes sub-reimbursement for teachers.
- ✓ Network with other partner districts about successes, challenges and strategies for implementation. Includes travel reimbursement and sub-reimbursement for teachers to attend face-to-face meetings.
- ✓ Adopt and implement sustainable policies, programs, and practices to support HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention in schools.

By participating in this partnership, you will become an integral part of this cutting-edge initiative. Your district's commitment to the health and education needs of your school community will be showcased at state and national levels.

State Commitments

The MDE's commitment to the 15 partner school districts is to:

- Dedicate a full-time HIV/STD Education Consultant at the MDE responsible for this initiative and the 15 partner districts.
- Assist districts with curriculum alignment to national and state standards.
- Provide professional development, technical assistance, research, and tools on:
 - research-based curricula
 - model policies
 - building and sustaining effective teams and advisory committees
 - effective parent engagement
 - school connectedness
 - reaching all students, including those at greatest risk
- Facilitate an ongoing learning collaborative among partner districts' teams to share successful strategies.
- Help create linkages between schools and community-based organizations to increase access to youth-friendly health care providers.
- Facilitate access to state and national experts.
- Provide technical assistance on utilizing data for decision-making and program improvement.

District Commitments

The 15 partner school districts will agree to:

- Designate a team of district staff to lead the initiative, serve as liaison between the district and state, and attend three face-to-face meetings per year.
- Adopt a written course of study in sexual health education for middle and high school students that is evidence-based, developmentally appropriate, and taught by well-qualified and trained teachers.
- Attend professional development opportunities offered by the Department on required areas, including:
 - implementing safe and supportive school environments for all students, including LGBT youth
 - anti-bullying and anti-sexual harassment policies, school-connectedness, and parent engagement
- Set up a referral system (if you do not have one already) with community organizations that provide adolescent sexual health services.
- Track policy adoption and monitor policy implementation for HIV/STD and pregnancy prevention.
- Participate in required data collection including the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), Michigan Profiles for Healthy Youth (MiPHY) and School Health Profiles.

Next Step

If you are interested in exploring the possibility of collaborating with the MDE to become one of the 15 partner school districts, please contact:



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