

## **Safe and Drug Free Schools Grant Program**

The Peabody Public Schools participates in the Title IV or Safe and Drug Free Schools (SDFS) grant, a program that provides drug, alcohol and anti-violence education that might not otherwise be available to Peabody students.

The grant is written in consultation with the Peabody Police, Public Health Department and the Health Advisory Committee (HAC) and the Healthy Peabody Collaborative. Members of the HAC include; students, parents, teachers, the Director of the Healthy Peabody Collaborative, the Public Health Department and private schools within Peabody.

Current goals for the SDFS grant are:

1. Decrease violent behavior in the PPS 2% by 2011.
2. Increase students sense of safety at the middle school 2% by 2011.
3. Decrease the number of days lost to students due to outside suspension 1% by 2011.
4. Decrease the number of in-school suspensions 1% by 2011.
5. Increase student knowledge of the dangers of underage drinking 2% by 2013

In order to accomplish these goals the PPS tracks violent behavior (including verbal name calling, threats etc) and during the 2009 school year focused heavily on the elementary schools and teaching Second Step, an anti-violence curriculum. In addition, an introduction to Second Step strategies and language was offered to parents during the 2009 school year and will be again this year.

The PPS will be purchasing (through SDFS funding) an evidence based curriculum entitled “LifeSkills Training” (LST) that will be taught at the middle school. The curriculum is a school-based program that aims to prevent alcohol, tobacco and marijuana use as well as violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors. The program will begin as soon as the materials arrive in the district.

The PPS partnered with the Public Health Department and the Healthy Peabody Collaborative to offer a Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) during the 2009 school year and will soon receive the survey results. The results will be used to direct health education as well as community programs for Peabody’s youth. If you have any questions regarding Second Step, please contact your child’s school. YRBS data will be made public in the coming weeks.