



SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS PROJECT

For Immediate Release
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Success for All Students Program To Provide Mental Health Support for 35 Cobb County Schools District Receives Unprecedented \$8.5M in Federal Grant Funds

The Cobb County School District is proud to announce the launch of Success for All Students, a school-based mental health support program funded by \$8.5 million in grant funds from the federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program. The program will span four years, providing free intervention and mentoring services for students at 35 Cobb schools in Acworth, Kennesaw and Powder Springs. Following a year-long pilot program in Area 5 schools in northwest Cobb, the District's social work department applied for and received the grant, which is federally funded by the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative of the U.S. Department of Education and Department of Health and Human Services.

Success for All Students will be implemented within 20 elementary, nine middle and six high schools in Cobb, providing support services that aim to decrease discipline events, improve attendance and ultimately, improve student performance. The program is comprised of five key elements: Safe, school environments and violence prevention; alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention activities; student behavioral, social and emotional supports; mental health services and early childhood social and emotional learning programs.

Dr. Paulette Herbert, the District's school social work supervisor, coordinated development of the program and the grant. "Providing mental health and other support services to both students and their families will make it easier for teachers and administrators to do their jobs, ultimately giving them more time to teach," said Dr. Herbert. The program will supplement the District's social work and prevention/intervention services already provided to schools throughout Cobb. The program also connects the School District's resources with that of the Cobb Community Services Board, Cobb County Juvenile Court and the Cobb County Sheriff's Department. Project manager Matt Yancey said, "In these communities, police will focus not just on enforcement, educators not just on education, and mental health providers not just on mental health. Each will work together with the others, understanding that the elements are closely woven together, to address student needs in a meaningful way with a comprehensive, collaborative approach to barriers." The program has also partnered with Georgia State University to provide evaluation services, required for fulfillment of the grant.

Lynnda Crowder-Eagle, Post 1 representative to the Cobb County Board of Education, recognizes the potential impact of Success for All Students on the schools in her post. "This program has the potential to promote academic achievement by increasing

students' attention, improving academic performance and saving instructional time currently lost to disruptive behavior. The benefits to students, families and communities are obvious," said Mrs. Crowder-Eagle.

Since 1999, the Safe Schools/Healthy Students initiative has provided more than \$800 million in funds for similar programs throughout the U.S. A new section of the District Web site at www.cobbk12.org will debut in the coming weeks providing further information about Success for All Students and resources for schools, parents and the community.

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