

Appendix B-7



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20202-_____

Date __, 2009

Dear Program Provider:

We are writing to request your participation in the U.S. Department of Education's *Study of the Implementation of the Safe and Drug-free Schools and Communities Act Program State Grants*. The purpose of the study is to describe school-based prevention programs, including those funded through the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) Program. The U.S. Department of Education will use information from the study to improve the SDFSCA Program and meet the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) reporting requirements. Once the study is completed, we will share the findings with your state, your district, and all participating schools.

As part of the study, we are currently conducting a nationally representative survey of staff who implement prevention programs in schools. Your principal indicated that you would be the best person to respond to our questions. You now have access to our web-based questionnaire. As you answer questions, please think about how the portion of the program named in the questionnaire was actually implemented during the 2008-09 school year.

The questionnaire is available at www.sdfs-evaluation.org. The username and password for your school appear on the label affixed at the bottom of this letter and on the enclosed yellow-colored Web Survey Information Sheet. If you do not have access to the web, or you prefer to respond by mail or fax, please complete and return the enclosed paper and pencil version of the questionnaire.

Your participation is important because only a small number of all prevention programs around the nation were selected to participate in the study. Since your program represents many other programs, we depend on your participation to help us get accurate information about prevention activities. All responses will be kept confidential. Responses to this data collection will be used only for statistical purposes. Reports prepared for this study will summarize findings across the sample and will not associate responses with a specific district, school, or individual. Information that identifies the district, school, or respondent will not be provided to anyone, except as required by law. Federal law states that "a grantee shall cooperate in any evaluation of the program by the Secretary [of Education]" (Authority: 20 U.S.C.1221e-3, 1226c, 1231a, 3474, and 6511 (a)) [45 FR 86298, Dec 30, 1980, as amended at 57 FR 30341, July 8, 1992]. This evaluation is required of the Secretary of Education by Congress.

This study is being conducted by Westat, an independent research firm in Rockville, Maryland. We ask that you complete the survey within 3 weeks. Please keep a copy of the completed questionnaire for your files. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact a study representative at Westat at our toll free number 1-888-611-9273 or at SDFSEvaluation@westat.com. You may also call Dr. Sharon Stout, the Contracting Officer's

Representative at the U.S. Department of Education, at (202) 260-2493 or at Sharon.Stout@ed.gov.

Thank you very much for your cooperation with this important study.

Sincerely,

Alan L. Ginsburg
Director
Policy and Program Studies Service

William Modzeleski
Acting Assistant Deputy Secretary
Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools

Enclosures