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**From:** "Rebecca Sapora-Day" <rsapora@RCI.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**To:** <CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK@EMAIL.RUTGERS.EDU>  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 10, 2005 1:19 PM  
**Subject:** Character\_Education\_Network Online Special Announcement

**CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK Online Mail List  
Special Announcement**

**Proposed Elimination of the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities  
Program**

The following message is a follow-up to information provided in our last edition regarding the threat to the Title IV, Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act funding. Timely action as suggested below is in the interest of all who value the prevention and intervention system that New Jersey has developed over the last twenty years. Think of New Jersey without support for Substance Awareness Coordinators, Intervention and Referral Services and funds to support professional development and research-based curriculum and instruction. We have come along way in learning how to provide these critical services and need to continue to strengthen our work.

Philip M. Brown, Ph.D.  
Director

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Provided below is information on the President's proposal to eliminate the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act program, which is Title IV, Part A of the No Child Left Behind Act. The information is being provided to you in the event that your organization and/or your constituent individuals or organizations choose to express their views on the proposal to federal Legislators. In the event that organizations and individuals elect to share their opinions with federal Legislators, it has been suggested that they communicate via email, fax or phone, and not regular mail, since regular mail takes up to two months to clear the screening process in Washington, D.C.

It is important that people who elect to contact their federal Legislators do so quickly, since the House and Senate Committees currently are working on their budget resolutions. Thank you for your attention to this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Susan Martz, Director  
Office of Program Support Services  
New Jersey Department of Education

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**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANALYSIS**

5/15/2009

**OF THE PROPOSED ELIMINATION  
OF SAFE AND DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES ACT FUNDS  
UNDER THE PRESIDENT'S FFY06 BUDGET  
3/10/05**

**Status**

Recognizing that the United States House of Representatives and Senate will take initial action within a week on the President's proposal to eliminate the Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act (SDFSCA) in federal fiscal year (FFY) 2006, there is no way to know whether there is support for the President's proposal. This action would *eliminate both the SDFSCA State and Local Programs and Governor's Grant funds to states*. Private individuals and organizations throughout the country are currently contacting their United States Representatives and Senators to convey their opinions on the proposed eradication of the SDFSCA program. Provided below are some facts about the proposed termination of the program. Additional information and assistance designed to make easy the ability to of private individuals and organizations to express their views can be found at the following web site: [www.CADCA.org](http://www.CADCA.org).

**Program Success**

The elimination of SDFSCA would have a devastating effect on school safety and the continuation of the following documented positive changes in student behaviors:

- The SDFSCA program has had a significant impact in achieving a *17% overall national decline in youth drug use* over the past three years. In New Jersey, there has been a *13% decline in tobacco use, a 9% decrease in alcohol use and a 5% reduction in marijuana use*. In addition, New Jersey schools experienced a 9% decrease in the number of incidents of violence and vandalism reported statewide.
- Academic Success - Research has shown that lower reading and math scores are associated with peer substance abuse. Additionally, to provide a learning environment that positively impacts students' ability to learn, every new cohort of youth must have the benefit of prevention efforts to ensure that drug, alcohol and violence rates continue to decline.
- The SDFSCA program is the foundation of youth drug prevention and intervention efforts in New Jersey. This program:
  - Compels schools to collaborate with their communities to combat substance abuse and violence, and to increase safety and security;
  - Requires schools to develop comprehensive plans that are well organized, efficient and have observable, measurable and significant outcomes; and
  - Provides schools with funding to leverage with other public and private resources to increase the effectiveness of prevention and early intervention for risky, negative behaviors.

**Fiscal Impact for the United States**

*\$41 billion* – According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), costs associated with substance abuse will add 10% to the already strained budgets of schools across the nation, and will result in a *loss of savings ranging from \$2.00 to \$19.64 for every dollar invested in substance abuse and violence prevention*.

**General Impact for New Jersey**

If the President's budget is accepted by Congress, New Jersey schools and the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) would lose the *only source of funds, federal or state, specifically dedicated to supporting school safety and security*. Since the establishment of SDFSCA in 1986, it has been the only source of funding support provided to all schools for the development and maintenance of school infrastructures designed to prevent substance abuse and violence and to promote safe, disciplined and effective learning environments. The elimination of

these funds would have a profoundly negative fiscal and programmatic impact on the ability of schools to prevent and intervene with outside threats and problem student behaviors and *runs counter to Acting Governor Richard J. Codey's initiative to make school security a primary focus of his administration.*

### **Fiscal Impact for New Jersey**

- *Loss of \$8,359,702* (FFY05) in State and Local Programs (SEA) funds (\$0 FFY06) and *loss of \$2,019,752* (FFY05) in Governor's Grant funds (\$0 FFY06) - *Eliminates the only source of funds that enables the NJDOE to provide comprehensive and coordinated statewide prevention activities designed to support school safety.*
- The elimination of SEA funds includes the *loss of \$7,745,523* (FFY05) that is provided annually to approximately 2,400 public schools and 1,000 nonpublic schools in New Jersey (\$0 FFY 2006), *eradicating the only source of dedicated funds available to schools for coordinating local safety, security and substance abuse prevention and intervention activities.*

### **Consequences for the New Jersey Department of Education and Statewide Activity**

The proposed funding cut would:

- *Eliminate funds dedicated to science-based, outcome driven safety, violence and substance abuse prevention programs*, including: community-wide planning and organizing activities to reduce violence and illegal drug use in schools; gang activity prevention; acquiring and installing metal detectors, electronic locks, surveillance cameras, or other related equipment and technologies; reporting criminal offenses committed on school property; developing and implementing comprehensive school security plans; supporting safe zones of passage activities that ensure that students travel safely to and from school; the hiring and mandatory training, based on scientific research, of school security personnel (including school resource officers) who interact with students in support of youth drug and violence prevention activities under this part that are implemented in the school. The capacity to address the following program areas also would be eliminated: harassment, intimidation and bullying, scientific practices, social norms, positive student discipline, peer transitions, peer leadership, community services for at-risk students, social and emotional learning, and intervention and referral services.
- Eliminate the NJDOE's capacity to collect and analyze statewide data on security, violence and substance abuse and utilize data to inform policy making and decision-making.

### **Consequences for New Jersey Schools**

- The proposed funding cut would eliminate *the only source of funding support provided to all schools for the development and maintenance of school infrastructures designed to prevent substance abuse and violence* and to promote safe, disciplined and effective learning environments.
- The elimination of these funds would have a profoundly negative fiscal and programmatic impact on the ability of schools to prevent and intervene with outside threats and problem student behaviors, either *terminating existing program support for at-risk students or causing them to take other educational resources for these purposes, thereby eliminating support for other needy students.*

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This is a special announcement from the **CHARACTER\_EDUCATION\_NETWORK** online mail

list. Your name has been added to this list as a result of your completing the New Jersey Department of Education Character Education Network Online Listserv Form or because you have indicated an interest in receiving updates on character education efforts in New Jersey.

The purpose of **The Network** is to encourage the adoption of character education programs and strategies by providing a forum for sharing information, research and promising practices. Through the New Jersey Center for Character Education (NJCCE), **The Network** offers educators access to national and state character education experts and programs through conferences, workshops, and e-mails.

**The Network** brings you **news** from the national, state and local levels; **best practices**, including updates from our New Jersey Local Education Area (LEA) Partner demonstration sites; announcements of **events, conferences, workshops**; and **professional development opportunities** throughout the state and at the national level; grant and **funding opportunities**; **program and assessment resources** and links to other character education **websites**.

A link to the NJ Center for Character Education website ([www.nj-charactered.net](http://www.nj-charactered.net)) will lead you to current **articles** and **research** from the field as well as materials and large documents which you can download for use in your classroom.