



We were successful!

CONTACT PERSON:

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Please tell us everything you can about your success – so we may use your example to help others make successful changes in their schools. The more information and details that you can share the better! Thank you for everything your school and/or district is doing to improve the academic success and health of Mississippi children.

Tell us WHAT YOU DID in your school or district.

Canton, Mississippi has many health and educational needs. Like other cities across the state, Canton has a recognizably high rate of obesity within the student body population as well as among the faculty and staff across the District. Polls of the faculty and staff across the District indicated that many of our faculty and staff members suffer from problems resulting from obesity and other health complications. Additionally, about 25% of adults have a college degree. Most of the population is African American (80%), and more than 1/3 of the population lives at or below the poverty level (35%). Subsequently, the District decided to implement a district-wide Comprehensive Health Program. Through this effort, the school district has worked diligently to connect health and wellness to successful education, and many beneficial changes have made.

Tell us HOW you were able to make these changes.

The Canton School District applied for funds for HIV Prevention because school and community leaders recognized the need for education and referral resources for students, faculty, and staff.

In the first year of the program, HIV goals and objectives were developed. The district implements HIV education as part of an overall program in school health. All faculty are involved, from the health and P.E. staff to coaches, cafeteria workers and teachers. In year one, results included:

- BMI assessment for all 6th graders at Nichols Middle School (over 200 students)
- Health education about obesity, HIV, and other health issues for staff, students, and parents
- “Just Wait” curriculum taught to all health classes
- Department of Human Services “Rally” for all health classes to encourage healthy choices
- Students received 6 lessons from “Just Wait” curriculum as part of health class
- Revised school health policies, beginning with vending policy
- Provided staff education for HIV
- Students participated in a health risk assessment
- A staff wellness program resulted in 80% participation. The program was highlighted in the District Newsletter, November/December Issue, 2006.

Please check the areas in which you made successful changes:

Physical Education

Nutrition

Staff Wellness

Outdoor Safety

Psychological Services

Disease Prevention

Asthma Awareness

Community Health Council

Comprehensive Health Education

Parental Involvement

School Health Council

School Safety

School Nurse Program

HIV Prevention

Memo of understanding/participation with other agency(s)

Other _____

Please indicate at which level these changes were made.

Entire District

School Building

Please explain what grants you have received in the past, are currently receiving or have recently applied for:

Applied for: Health is Academic

Awarded: 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program;

Grant for Disease Prevention (HIV/AIDS Grant)

Please attach any additional information (newspaper article, pictures, etc.) The more information that you are able to share the better we can help others to make successful changes in their schools.

Attach newsletter form District

Please send to:
Mississippi Department of Education
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