

Office of Communications

SOUTH INTENSIVE TRANSITION STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM INNOVATIVE PROJECT ALERT AND PROJECT TND

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South Intensive Transition School launched two successful programs in partnership with the Drug Abuse Foundation of Palm Beach County, Inc. this past year called Project ALERT and Project Towards No Drug Abuse (TND).

Project ALERT is a middle school age appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum proven effective in reducing experimentation among teens, and in reducing usage among teens who experiment. Project ALERT contained eleven lessons in its initial year that focus on alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and inhalants – those substances that are the first and most widely used by young people today. Project ALERT's focus is on

motivating non-use, learning to recognize pressures to use and on developing and practicing skills to resist these pressures.

"I enjoyed the classes because I learned how to make smarter decisions and realized that my choices have consequences," said middle school student Larry Clemons.

Project TND is a high school age appropriate substance abuse prevention curriculum proven effective in reducing experimentation among teens, and in reducing usage among teens who experiment. The TND program schedule included a pre-test, 11 face-to-face sessions and a post-test with a Behavioral Health Educator.

Project TND focused on three factors that predict tobacco, alcohol, and other drug use, violence-related behaviors, and other problem behaviors among youth, including:

- Motivation factors (students' attitudes, beliefs, expectations, and desires regarding drug use)
- Skills (social, self-control, and coping skills)
- Decision-making (how to make decisions that lead to health-promoting behaviors)

"The classes taught me to make better decisions about drugs. I learned why I shouldn't do drugs and how it hurts the body," stated ninth grader Andres Francisco.

"Our school is committed to providing the most effective approaches to preventing the use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in our communities. We provided the opportunity for students to earn community service hours that were used to fulfill their graduation requirement upon successful completion of the program through active participation and assignment completion. We are proud that our students earned a total of 164 community service hours and increased their performance on the post-tests," said Terrence Narinesingh, Ed.S., Assistant Principal.

It is known that prevention of drug use and abuse is most effective when it is a partnership between the community, the home and the school. According to a nationwide survey, youth who learn about the risks of drugs at home from their parents are much less likely to use drugs than those who do not. However, getting the message across is not easy.

According to the Partnership's survey, virtually all parents (98%) reported talking to their kids at some point about drugs, but just 68% of the kids remembered the conversation, and only 27% reported learning a lot at home on the issue of drug use. Here is where the structured home learning opportunities within Project ALERT and Project TND can help to focus discussion between parents and their children. Students brought home five homework assignments that involved parents in discussion, sharing responses and listening to oral reports.

For more information, contact Assistant Principal Terrence Narinesingh at 561-202-0604.

About South Intensive Transition School:

South Intensive Transition School officially opened its doors in 2007 as an alternative school with high expectations for exemplary achievement, serving students in Grades 6-12. South Intensive is the first alternative school in the School District of Palm Beach County to offer the rigorous SpringBoard® curriculum in English Language Arts and Mathematics to ensure that students are equipped to achieve success on the Florida Standards in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in Spring 2015 and also become college and career ready. South Intensive effectively implements the research-based School-wide Positive Behavior Support (SwPBS) strategies to promote safety, civility, and demonstrate increases in student respectfulness, responsibility and motivation.

*South Intensive Transition has achieved the **Green School of Promise** recognition for two consecutive years for taking a holistic approach to going green that incorporates school ground enhancement, resource conservation, curriculum connections, and community involvement with a school wide commitment and focus on sustainability. Through collegial partnerships with Lynn University and several community agencies, students benefit from additional services to ensure academic and behavioral intervention success. For more information, visit http://www.edline.net/pages/Intensive_Transition_South*

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