

Safe Schools Appropriation Expenditures Report

2004-05
School Year



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INTRODUCTION

The Office of Safe Schools, in the Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, Florida Department of Education, along with the Safe, Disciplined and Drug-Free Schools Project, Florida Institute of Education at the University of North Florida, prepared the *2004-2005 Safe Schools Appropriation Expenditures Report*. This report summarizes school district expenditures, budgeting, and activities of the Florida Safe Schools Appropriation for the 2004-2005 school year. This report includes a history of the safe schools efforts in Florida and presents the data collected from the *2004-2005 on-line Safe Schools Appropriation Expenditures Survey*. The appendices include documents associated with these program activities as well as related reference information. For additional information on Safe Schools Appropriation activities, contact the Office of Safe Schools, at (850) 245-0416 or Suncom 205-0416.

History and Background

The Safe Schools Program initially was funded for the 1983-1984 school year. In 1986, the Florida Legislature enacted the Florida Safe Schools Act, in which funding was based solely on the juvenile crime index and, therefore, went primarily to large urban school districts. This method of allocation continued through the 1992-1993 school year. Subsequently, the Florida Safe Schools Act remained unfunded for several years and was rescinded by the 1997 Florida Legislature.

However, in 1994, the Florida Legislature funded safe schools activities through proviso language in its General Appropriations Act. This funding has continued to the present (see Appendix A - Safe Schools Appropriation Proviso Language). The purpose of the funding is to provide resources for after-school middle school programs and alternative placements for adjudicated youth and to enhance the safety and security of the learning environment. This purpose has remained constant. Presently, each school district receives a minimum of \$30,000 towards the aforementioned purpose. The balance of the Safe Schools Appropriation fund is distributed based upon the following formula: two-thirds based on the latest Florida Department of Law Enforcement Crime Index and one-third on each district's share of the state's total unweighted student enrollment.

Data for this report were collected via a web-based survey from each school district in the spring of 2006 through the State Safe Schools Appropriation Expenditures Survey of Activities. The survey was developed to collect information from each school district concerning actual expenditures of safe schools funds during the 2004-2005 school year. All 67 school districts that received Safe School funds responded to the survey and provided expenditure information. Although the five Developmental Research Schools (DRS) receive safe schools funds, their expenditures are managed through the university system, not the Department of Education and, therefore, are not included in this report. The district and DRS school breakdown of the 2004-2005 Safe Schools Appropriation allocation is provided in Appendix B.

The K-20 Flexibility Act allows for funds that were allocated for safe schools activities, to be expended in 2004-2005 fiscal year for specific academic instruction. This report contains information on districts that transferred safe school funds for specific academic instruction. Additionally, the format of this report follows closely the format of the online survey.

