



School-Based Programming

The following projects are structured to address non violent, school-based incidents, that could be framed as delinquent activities, in ways that keep young people engaged in school and that promote academic success. Developed to support innovative models for disrupting the “school to prison pipeline,” these projects provide a range of training and direct services to address root causes of problematic school behavior.

2010 Promise Zone/School Engagement Grant

Project Title	
Grantee	New York City
Implementing Agency	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Target Population	New York City Promise Zone Schools
Description	New York Promise Zones for Urban Education (Promise Zone) is a strategy to formalize partnerships between local school districts and child-serving public agencies to achieve New York State's goals of student engagement, academic achievement, dropout prevention, social and emotional competence, and

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Project Title	
Grantee	New York City
Implementing Agency	New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Target Population	New York City Promise Zone Schools
Description	New York Promise Zones for Urban Education (Promise Zone) is a strategy to formalize partnerships between local school districts and child-serving public agencies to achieve New York State's goals of student engagement, academic achievement, dropout prevention, social and emotional competence, and positive school culture and school safety. Funding supports the development of resource materials and training for school staff. This is a piece of a larger, cross systems effort that is being facilitated by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Grantee
Implementing Agency
Target Population
Description

Schenectady Juvenile Mental Health Diversion Project

Schenectady County

Schenectady County Probation Department

Middle School students

The Schenectady Juvenile Mental Health Diversion Project is collaboration among the Schenectady County Probation Department, Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth, and Schenectady City School District. The Project provides services for Schenectady middle school students. The goal of the Project is to reduce the number of youth with mental health issues who are referred to the juvenile justice system by the schools, and instead link them to appropriate services and supports to meet their needs. Services include: crisis intervention, assessment, support services and linkages to community based services to address identified needs. Once crises have been resolved and assessments have been completed, project staff link students and families to appropriate services and supports in the community, using an extensive array of agencies that are partnering in this project. Additionally, the project provides training workshops for school personnel and law enforcement so they have the knowledge and skills needed to recognize mental illness, respond appropriately and use the project effectively.

Building Local Capacity for Transitional Supports

Utilizing federal Juvenile Accountability Block Grant (JABG) funds, the JJAG and the Division of Criminal Justice Services have partnered with the New York State Center for School Safety and 3 upstate jurisdictions to improve school engagement and achievement for justice involved youth transitioning to high school. Focusing on effective strategies to reduce the drop-out rate and increase graduation rates and recognizing the key transition year between middle and high schools, the goal of the project is to bring a cohort of high risk, justice involved students successfully through their ninth grade school year.

Each jurisdiction has been awarded \$48,000 to support on-going training and technical assistance for a group of school and community-based professionals who will work directly with 20-30 justice involved and high risk youth (youth who have a history of repeated behavioral infractions, multiple out of school suspensions and excessive absenteeism). The intensive year-long professional development program will provide successful tools and strategies for engaging justice involved youth in school and fostering achievement of academic goals. Participants will learn non-verbal communication and de-escalation techniques along with multiple evidence-based practices, including Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Life Space Crisis Intervention (LCSI) and Therapeutic Crisis Intervention (TCI).

SITES

City of Amsterdam /Greater Amsterdam School District

City of Elmira/ Elmira City School District

Jefferson County /Watertown City School District

The JABG school-based projects will receive one-year grants to be implemented throughout the 2012-2013 academic year. It is not anticipated that there will be funding beyond the initial grant period to support continued training and technical assistance. The nature of the projects (staff development and training), however, promotes sustained efforts to enhance supportive systems working together from inside the school and in the larger community to meet the needs of young people struggling with the ABCs: **A**ttendance, **B**ehavior infractions, and **C**ourse failure.
