

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOLUTIONS, INC.

WWW.S4EDCONSULTANTS.ORG

IT'S NATIONAL TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH!

HOW ARE YOU HELPING TEENS LEARN
HEALTHY AND NONVIOLENT RELATIONSHIP BEHAVIORS?

From an early age, we teach children to respect other people's spaces, belongings, feelings, differences, etc. The goal: to prevent these children from engaging in acts such as bullying/cyberbullying, violence, theft, or discrimination. However, I am not sure we ever truly teach them how to respect one another when they are in a relationship, whether as friends or dating couples (serious or casual). There may be the assumption that because people in relationships choose to be together that there will be this automatic mutual show of respect and that whatever occurs between them is consensual. If we, as a nation, need to raise awareness and prevent teen dating violence, then obviously, the need for teaching healthy and nonviolent relationship behaviors is necessary.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), dating violence is widespread with both serious long-term and short-term effects. Youth who have experienced such violence are more likely to also exhibit symptoms of depression and anxiety; engage in unhealthy behaviors, such as experimenting with tobacco, drugs, and alcohol; involve in antisocial behaviors; and have thoughts about suicide. The mental and physical health consequences can extend into adulthood; schools then end up with children and teens who are a product of and are exposed to unhealthy and violent relationships.

School personnel are already tasked with being on the lookout for signs of symptoms that may indicate that a student is a victim of bullying, human trafficking, child abuse, etc. Those symptoms are pretty similar, if not exact. If we are being trained to identify them, are we also being trained on how to tackle the root cause? Are our school counselors, social workers, and nurses, who are our first line of defense, prepared to support these teens? And this is just the intervention piece – helping students and their families once the problem exists. Like everything else, we must also focus on the preventative piece, which circles back to teaching healthy and nonviolent relationship behaviors.

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Student Support Services Solutions, Inc. (S4) is committed to ensuring that children and youth attend school in a safe, secure and nurturing environment. We specifically focus on the "Engagement" priorities of the Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) -- Student Engagement, School Climate, and Parent Involvement. We build the capacity of adults to help children and youth through technical support, training, identification of appropriate resources, and dissemination of timely information.

ALSO IN THIS EDITION...

IMPORTANT DATES

Other awareness month information for February and March.

MORGAN HILL VS. CDE

Preventing the disclosure of pupil records in the litigation process.

IN SCHOOL + ON TRACK

Positive parent messaging toolkit.

UPCOMING EVENTS

List of upcoming events that address areas under student services.

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CDC's comprehensive teen dating violence prevention initiative, focusing on 11- to 14-year-olds in high-risk, urban communities; provides a free 60-minute, interactive training designed to help educators and others that work with teens.

And it does not stop with just educating our teens. We need to include their parents and/or adult caregivers in the conversation. In parent meetings and trainings, there needs to always be a reminder that teens learn how to behave in relationships, not just from their peers, but from the adults in their lives and from media. As adults, we need to model basic manner and appropriate behaviors, and we need to help guide children and teens in choosing music, TV shows, movies, video games, social media sites and such that promote respect, kindness and understanding.

Now that February is at an end and some activities to raise awareness have been conducted, our work does not end, unfortunately. Take time to explore the resources provided through CDC and other organizations that are committed to helping teens. Particularly, share and/or post the downloadable infographic at <http://www.cdc.gov/> highlighting the importance of healthy relationships throughout life.

MARCH 16TH IS KICK BUTTS DAY!

Kick Butts Day is a program of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids that first took root in 1996. Schools across the nation are encouraged to organize events that fight to reduce tobacco use. Events serve to:

- Raise awareness of the problem of tobacco use
- Encourage youth to reject the tobacco industry's deceptive marketing and stay tobacco-free
- Urge elected officials to take action to protect youth from tobacco

Visit www.kickbuttsday.org to search for activity ideas that can easily be conducted in the classroom or as a school community, access marketing materials and media toolkits, and learn about the latest facts about tobacco.



Go one step further and take the opportunity to educate students about e-cigarettes. Use of e-cigarettes promotes addiction, may cause lasting harm to brain development, and leads to continued tobacco use. With the steady increase of e-cigarette advertisements through all sources of media, reaching approximately 70% of youth in the U.S., 2.4 million middle and high school students reported being users of e-cigarettes in 2014. The marketing strategy employed by e-cigarette companies could reverse all the progress that has been made in preventing tobacco use among youth.

NATIONAL & STATE EDUCATIONAL AND HEALTH AWARENESS DATES

FEBRUARY 2016

- African American History Month
- National Boost-Your-Self-Esteem Month
- National Children's Dental Health Month
- National Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month
- National Eating Disorders Awareness Week (2/23-3/1)

MARCH 2016

- Gender Equity Month
- Music in our Schools Month
- National Nutrition Month
- National Women's History Month
- Youth Art Month
- Read Across America Day (3/2)
- National Sleep Awareness Week (3/2-3/9)
- Teen Tech Week (3/6-3/12)
- National School Breakfast Week (3/7-3/11)
- Kick Butts Day (3/16)
- International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (3/21)
- World Water Day (3/22)

New Tips on How to Talk to Parents About Elementary School Absences!

Find them here:

oag.ca.gov/truancy/toolkit



POSITIVE PARENT MESSAGING TOOLKIT

The California Attorney General's Office, the Ad Council, and the California Endowment sent communications experts to interview nearly 1,000 parents of chronically absent elementary school students to help answer one question:

What is the best way to communicate with parents about elementary school absences?

KEY FINDINGS

- Parents have big dreams for their children, but those dreams are tied to high school and beyond (graduation, college admission, etc.). Only 37–41% of interviewed parents thought that K–3 absences are a serious issue.
- Simple changes to messaging can have a big positive impact. For example, parents are better able to understand the reasonable number of absences if you refer to absences per month (an average of 2+ is too many), as opposed to absences per term or year (18+ absences is too many).
- Parents prefer to communicate via text message. School and community leaders should consider using text messages as part of a comprehensive outreach strategy.

All of this information is now available in the form of a Positive Parent Messaging Toolkit. The toolkit includes research reports, communication tools based on the research, and strategy recommendations that will help district and community leaders develop their own communication plans.

Morgan Hill Concerned Parent Association vs. California Department of Education (CDE)

This month, State Superintendent Tom Torlakson urged LEAs and SELPAs to post the following link to the CDE's Web site, <http://www.cde.ca.gov/re/di/ws/morganhillcase.asp>. What is at stake is the disclosure of personally identifiable information of all children who are attending or have attended a California school at any time since January 1, 2008 as a result of CDE's obligation to comply with a court order. The Web site includes a form, provided in English and Spanish, that the educational rights holder can complete to object to the disclosure of their student's personal and protected records. This form must be mailed directly to the United States District Judge Kimberly J. Mueller, who issued the court order, by April 1, 2016. The educational rights holder may also submit a personal letter to the Judge – please see the "Notice of Disclosure of Student Records" on the CDE Web site for details on what to include in the letter. Questions? Call the CDE at (916) 319-0800.

LEAs are sharing the information through emails, robo calls, school/district newsletters, and parent meetings. What you can do individually is to also share this information with your own family members, neighbors and colleagues to ensure that as many people as possible are made aware of this issue.

This marks the 48th year of the "Redbook", a professional reference guide for school-site and district office administrators and other professionals who deal with schools and juveniles. As the title reflects, this publication contains more than 1,400 current California Code Sections along with related Federal Laws and Administrative Guidelines that relate to minors. Subject areas include Attendance, Discipline, Due Process, Student Rights and Responsibilities, Pupil Records, Special Education, and much, much more!

The "Redbook" is a great companion to the S₄ Legislative Update Guide for 2015-2016. Both publications are available on the Legal Books Distributing website.

CALIFORNIA LAWS RELATING TO MINORS 2016 EDITION "The Redbook"



OUR 48TH YEAR -
All New 2016 Code References
Easy-to-Read
Source Index & Subject Index make this book indispensable

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES SOLUTIONS, INC.

We're presenting!

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

MARCH 18, 2016
8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.

San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools
West End Educational Service Center
8265 Aspen Avenue
Rancho Cucamonga, CA 91730

Registration Fee: \$120 per person;
\$95 for every 3rd person within a district/agency
(Includes PPT, flash drive with resources,
Student Discipline Guide, and lunch)

Register at:

<https://sbcss.k12oms.org/eventdetail.php?id=108948>

As we approach the end of the school year, and you find that your school or district still needs to meet certain professional development and/or parent training goals, please consider S₄ as a viable option. All our workshops and trainings are of high quality, interactive, and tailored to the specific needs of the audience, and are consistent with current board policy and state and federal laws. Please visit our website or contact us directly to explore the possibilities. You can also find us at one of the upcoming conferences where we will be presenting.

UPCOMING EVENTS RELATED TO STUDENT SERVICES

Foster Youth Education Summit

Partnership, Practice and Capacity Building of LCFF

April 11-12, 2016 – Sacramento, CA

www.cfyetf.org (registration information not yet available)

California Association of Supervisors of Child Welfare and Attendance (CASCWA) State Conference

Celebrating 80 Years of Advocating for Children

April 20-22, 2016 – Garden Grove, CA

www.cascwa.org

We're presenting!

California State Juvenile Officers Association 66th Annual Training Conference

Recruitment Techniques: From Bullying to ISIS

April 20-22, 2016

<http://csjoa.com/events-2/>

California League of Schools School Climate & Culture Summit

Creating and Sustaining Safe, Inclusive and Respectful Campuses

April 24-25, 2016 – North Lake Tahoe, CA

ACSA North State Spring Conference

Together our journey continues...

April 24-26, 2015 – Reno, NV

<http://regions.acsa.org/2/about/north-state-spring-conference/>

5th Annual Central California Truancy Summit

Using LCAP to Address the Root Causes of Truancy

May 4-6, 2016 – Visalia, CA

<http://kings.k12oms.org/89-103355>

We're presenting!

36th Annual California Mental Health Advocates for Children and Youth Conference

Making Local Communities Work

May 11-13, 2016 – Pacific Grove, CA

<http://cmhacy.org/>

Visit and learn about us at... www.s4edconsultants.org

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