

**COLCHESTER BOARD OF EDUCATION
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY REPORT FORM**

Title of Report: Connecticut School Health Survey

Board Meeting Date:

Action: Report: Information: Discussion:

Overview:

In the spring of 2007, Bacon Academy students took the *Connecticut School Health Survey*. This survey is comprised of two components: the Youth Tobacco Component, and the Youth Behavior Component. Because this survey is aligned with national and state data and well-constructed, administrators asked that all students be allowed to take the survey and that the Bacon Academy data be disaggregated by the Connecticut Department of Health. We were the only district in the state to participate fully in this survey, and we received the state report and our disaggregated results last fall. In March, Diane Aye, PhD, epidemiologist of the CT Department of Public Health, presented the data to our team.

District and school administrators have met with community members, including the Director of Public Health, the Youth Services Director, Colchester's Collaborative for Children, and the Resident State Trooper to discuss the community concerns arising from this data. The behavior of our youth is not only of concern to school officials, but also to families and community members.

Administrators have also shared the results of the survey with teachers and the district Wellness Committee, and we are working on putting elements into place to address the needs of students. Actions taken as a direct result of the survey include:

1. Revision of the grade 8 PE curriculum to include 10 health lessons on sexuality, suicide prevention, and drug and alcohol abuse prevention. (This will be in place until a health teacher can be hired and the grade 8 health curriculum implemented.)
2. Tobacco Cessation Grant Application (we were just notified that the state will not be funding this grant)
3. Bacon Academy's week focusing on domestic violence, in an effort to improve student understanding of healthy relationships
4. Parent presentation by Ann Marie Mafuid, "Talking to Your Teen" at Johnston
5. Meeting held with the State Trooper and First Selectman to recommend improved monitoring at key locations in town where youth are unsupervised.

In the future, the PTO collaborative is willing to share key data and sponsor workshops for parents to improve their understanding of the risks associated with smoking and the importance of supervision in minimizing risky behaviors. The Youth Services Department is exploring grants and willing to offer a summer program for tenth graders on risky behaviors. The high school is sharing key data with parents of ninth graders at the parent orientation.

Principals Candace Sullivan and Jeff Mathieu as well as myself will be available to answer questions regarding the attached data. We have also invited Youth Services Director, Valerie Geato to attend the meeting.

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Cc: Karen Loiselle

