

Memphis City Schools

MCS EUDL Grant Initiative and
Class Action Curriculum

An Alcohol / Drug Education and
Prevention After School Program

Grant funded by the Tennessee Commission
on Children and Youth



Focus: Prevention

Goals that we Set:

- To support and educate middle and high school students on the dangers of underage drinking;
- To promote and heighten awareness of the laws that relate to underage drinking through information, media, parents, and community stakeholders.



Student Goals

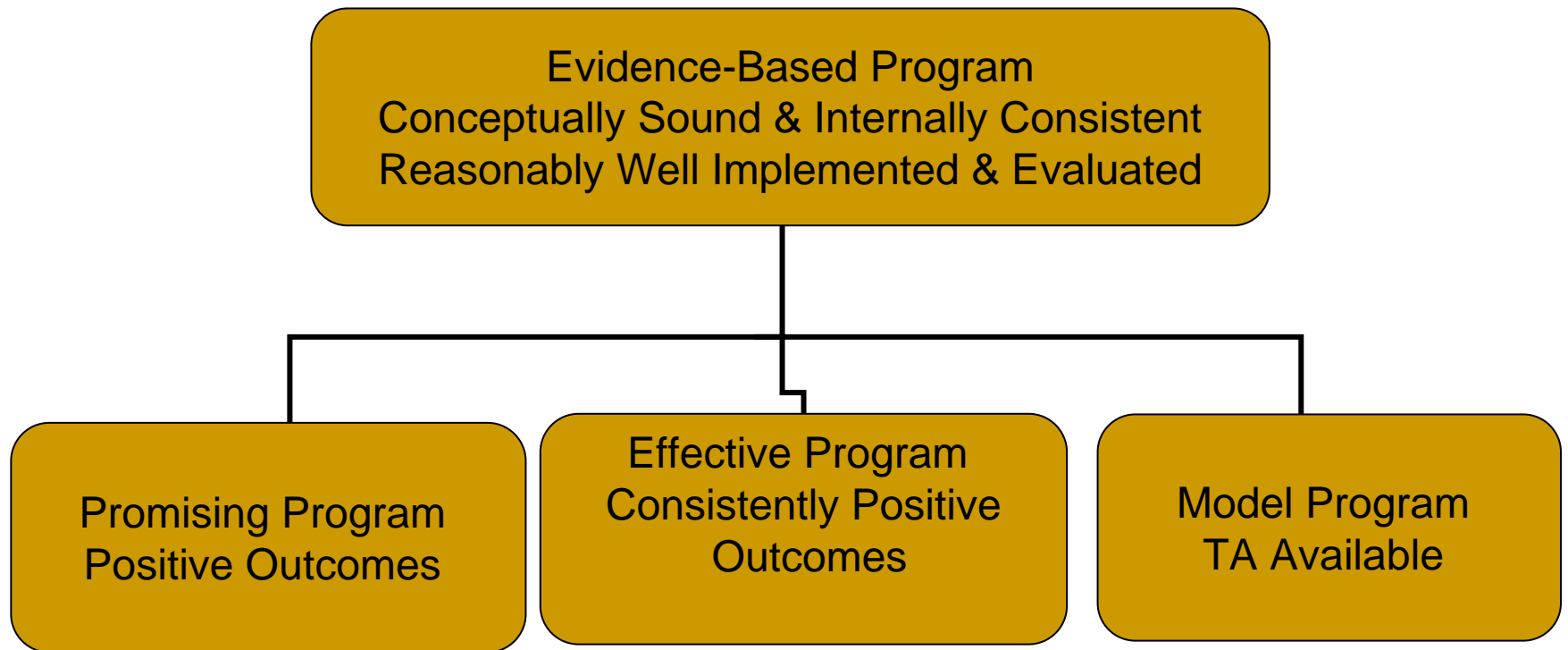
- Know legal issues regarding underage alcohol use
- Recognize underage alcohol use as a community-wide problem
- Discuss and debate alcohol issues
- Learn about social, emotional, physical, economic and legal consequences

As a result . . .

Shift student norms to support non-use

Why Class Action?

Class Action is a SAMHSA Model Program



<http://modelprograms.samhsa.gov>

Why Class Action?

- Prevention through education
 - Targets all forms of drugs
 - Could be used as an after-school program
 - Peer-led program
 - Enhances protective factors/reduces risk factors
 - Includes a parent component
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WHAT WE FOCUSED ON:

- Media campaigns / Quarterly Newsletters
 - Community blitz
 - Mothers Against Drunk Driving Programs
 - Red Ribbon Week, Holiday Activities, Prom Promise, and Graduation Activities
 - Lots of brochures and other materials
 - Parent Involvement
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Six Legal Case Topics Include:

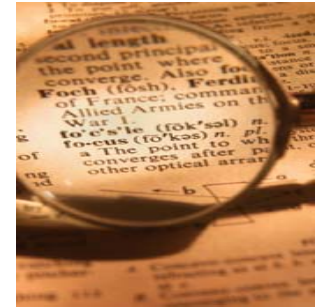
- Drinking and Driving
- Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Drinking and Violence
- Date Rape
- Drinking and Vandalism
- School Alcohol Policies



Casebook Contents

- The facts
 - Affidavits (written statements)
 - Depositions (transcribed w/attorney present)
 - Relevant Laws (laws or statutes that apply to case)
 - Case Law (rulings made by a judge)
 - Info file (generic and specific)
 - “Preparing and Presenting Your Case”
Instructions
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CONTENT FOCUS



- More awareness of legal issues
- Recognition that this is a community problem
- Discussion and debate on legal intricacies of alcohol-related issues
- Teaching of the social, emotional, economic, and legal consequences of underage alcohol use
- Students' norms concerning underage alcohol use will shift in a positive direction

How It Works

- Students (30) and Coordinators meet twice a week after school
 - Students are divided into six “legal” teams
 - Teams prepare and present civil cases in which someone has been harmed as a result of underage drinking
 - With the help of affidavits and depositions, students build legal cases and present them to a jury of their peers
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How It Works (Continued)

- Outside speakers are encouraged
 - Parent education involves the distribution of four postcards (mailed or given directly to the parents)
 - Although alcohol is the main focus, the use of tobacco, marijuana, and other drug use is discussed
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MCS EUDL Initiative Conclusions

- ✓ School-wide, multi-component intervention can reduce alcohol use among adolescents.
 - ✓ It is critical that interventions are:
 - **Planned throughout adolescence**
 - **Are appropriate to the developmental stage of the students**
 - **Create a norm that adolescent alcohol use is unacceptable**
 - **Reduce commercial and social access to alcohol**
 - **Provide other options for young people to socialize, entertain, and learn**
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Schools Involved

2006-2007 Year

- Carver High School
- Frayser High School
- Northside High School

Schools to be Added

Middle Schools that are Feeder Schools to
these high schools

Healthy Normative Expectations

- Unacceptable for high school students to drink
 - Unacceptable for anyone to provide alcohol to high school students
 - Both adults and high school students should take action when students are drinking
 - High school students can have fun, establish their maturity and independence, relieve stress and boredom and solve problems without alcohol
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Healthy Normative Expectations

- High school students can have fun, establish their maturity and independence, relieve stress and boredom and solve problems without alcohol
 - Parents do influence high school students' drinking
 - Community events and public places are opportunities for modeling healthy behaviors for high school students
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EVALUATION

The following are suggestions of areas you may want to assess if you implement this program.

- Assess the growth rate in alcohol use in the community.
 - Assess the intention to use alcohol in the future in participant students.
 - Assess the rate of binge drinking in participant students.
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Intervention Model

