Snapshot of U.S. Department of Education Office of Safe and Healthy Students (OSHS) Safe and Supportive Schools (S3) Grant to Maryland State Department of Education

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED TO MARYLAND (2010-2014): $3,093,212

MD S3 PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Maryland Safe and Supportive Schools (MD S3) grant primarily sought to reduce high rates of drug- and violence-related behavior in 31 high schools across 12 school districts that were trained in and implemented Tier 1 and Tier 2 Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS). MD S3 collected annual school climate survey data and worked with the districts and schools to use discipline, incident, and administrative data to choose and implement evidence-based interventions. MD S3 was implemented as a collaboration between the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE), the Sheppard Pratt Health System (SPHS), and Johns Hopkins University (JHU). MD S3 built upon Maryland's established PBIS effort, in place since 1999. PBIS Maryland was successful in training more than 1,037 schools in school-wide PBIS prior to the grant; however, increased support was needed to meet the needs of struggling students in low-performing high schools. The MD S3 grant was designed to fill that gap, focusing on implementation of PBIS and more intensive targeted interventions in the 31 MD "intervention" high schools.

GOAL OF THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

S3 grantees reported annually on the number of participating schools with:
- A decreased percentage of students who reported alcohol use in the past 30 days;
- A decreased percentage of students who reported harassment or bullying on school property;
- Improvement of school safety scores (as defined by each grantee); and
- A decrease in the number of suspensions for violence without injury.

SUCCESSES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Percentage of fully implemented participating MD S3 schools that improved on GPRA measures, baseline (2010-11) to final year (2014-15)
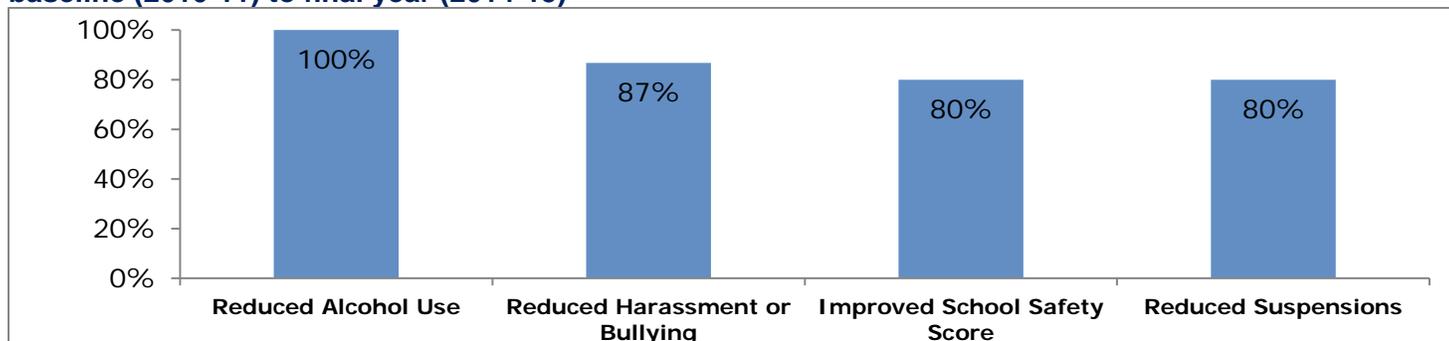
- A trained team of 10 school climate specialists led trainings and on-site coaching activities to ensure high-fidelity implementation of the evidence-based practices and programs in the 31 intervention schools.
- Student voice was emphasized through Youth Empowerment Summits (held in spring and fall 2013), and the MD S3 Summer 2013 Institute, which focused on giving power to youth voice. Topical film festivals were also held at high schools in different counties to engage students outside of the classroom on issues pertinent to their specific settings.
- State, district, and school leadership were engaged through annual meetings and administrative meetings in which survey data were shared and reviewed with the leaders of both intervention and comparison schools and their district leadership.

- MD S3 implemented the grant using a rigorous randomized controlled trial (RCT) design. They concluded that baseline indicators of school climate issues ("disorder") did not appear to be barriers to adoption of PBIS.

DATA SOURCES

The MD S3 was a data-driven effort that utilized administrative and survey data to focus school climate improvement efforts, decide where to concentrate resources, and help select appropriate interventions.

Administrative Data

Administrative data on referrals, suspensions, attendance, and academic records were furnished through the Maryland Report Card.

School Climate Surveys

The MD S3 administered the MD S3 School Climate surveys annually, each spring, during school years 2011–12 through 2014–15 to students, parents, and staff.

School Climate Safety Scores

Maryland's School Climate Profile Score was calculated using 71 items from the MD S3 School Climate Survey, which was composed of three scale scores (Safety, Engagement, and Environment). The three scales were combined using a weighted average of 30 percent for each scale and 10 percent for out-of-school suspension and truancy incident data. Suspension data were computed from the total number of out-of-school suspension offenses for the school year divided by the school enrollment. Incident data were rescaled to reflect the percentage of students not suspended and not habitually truant, respectively. The School Climate Profile Score was calculated on a scale of one to seven, with seven indicating a more positive school climate.

INTERVENTION FRAMEWORKS AND PROGRAMS

Frameworks
• Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
Programs
• Botvin Life Skills Training (LST)* • Olweus Bullying Prevention Program • Check and Connect* • Check-In/Check-Out (CICO)* • Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS)* *Classified as an evidence-based program (EBP), on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) or What Works Clearinghouse.

SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

- School climate is now a priority in Maryland. In the groundbreaking 2014 State Report on Best Practices in School Discipline, which addressed suspension and expulsion reform efforts, the MD S3 was cited as an exemplary model and all schools were encouraged to use the MD S3 School Climate Survey and adopt multi-tiered student supports.
- More than 1,000 schools across 24 systems were trained in PBIS, with 866 achieving implantation of Tier 1 (universal PBIS) with fidelity. There are ongoing conversations across the state and the MD S3 partners about further scale-up of PBIS in the advanced tiers.
- MD S3 created the Resource Binder in summer 2013 for statewide dissemination. The Resource Binder platform acts as a warehouse for MD S3 products, trainings, handbooks, resource maps, and presentations. In addition to providing continual support to MD S3 schools, educational institutions not involved in the grant can access all the resources produced by and for MD S3 schools.

MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION S3 DEMOGRAPHICS

- Students served by project: 72,500
- Number of districts served: 12

- Number of schools served: 58 high schools (31 intervention, 27 comparison)[1]
- Average school size: 1,635

Participating Districts	Participating Schools
1. Anne Arundel	1. Annapolis High School 2. Arundel High School 3. Chesapeake High School 4. Glen Burnie High School 5. Meade High School 6. North County High School 7. Northeast High School 8. Old Mill High School 9. South River High School
2. Baltimore County	10. Catonsville High School 11. Chesapeake High School 12. Dulaney High School 13. Dundalk High School 14. Franklin High School 15. George W. Carver Center for Arts and Technology 16. Hereford High School 17. Kenwood High IB and Sports Science 18. Lansdowne High and Academy of Finance 19. Loch Raven High School 20. Milford Mill Academy 21. New Town High School 22. Overlea High and Academy of Finance 23. Owings Mills High School 24. Parkville High and Center for Math/Science 25. Patapsco High and Center for Arts 26. Pikesville High School 27. Randallstown High School 28. Sparrows Point High School 29. Towson High Law and Public Policy 30. Western School of Technology and Environmental Science 31. Woodlawn High Center for Pre-Eng. Res.
3. Calvert	32. Calvert High School 33. Huntingtown High School
4. Caroline	34. Colonel Richardson High School 35. North Caroline High School
5. Charles	36. Henry E. Lackey High School 37. La Plata High School 38. Maurice J. McDonough High School 39. North Point High School 40. Thomas Stone High School 41. Westlake High School
6. Dorchester	42. Cambridge-South Dorchester 43. North Dorchester High School
7. Frederick	44. Middletown High School 45. Oakdale High School 46. Tuscarora High School
8. Queen Anne's	47. Kent Island High School 48. Queen Anne's County High School
9. Somerset	49. Crisfield Academy and High School 50. Washington Academy and High School

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[1] *Readers should note that just 31 schools received the intervention. NCSSLE did not have access to the list of control schools. MD S3 reported that the control schools were offered the intervention supports beginning in Year 5; thus, we liberally interpret them as beneficiaries of their efforts.*

Participating Districts	Participating Schools
10. Washington	51. Boonsboro High School 52. Smithsburg High School
11. Wicomico	53. James M. Bennett High School 54. Mardela Middle and High School 55. Parkside High School 56. Wicomico High School
12. Worcester	57. Pocomoke High School 58. Stephen Decatur High School

FURTHER DETAIL

- Maryland state profile: https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/state-profiles/maryland
- S3 Descriptive Study executive summary: https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/state-grantees/safe-and-supportive-school-s3-grants

CONTACT INFORMATION

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