



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

TOTAL AMOUNT AWARDED TO SOUTH CAROLINA (2010-2014): \$1,685,180

SCSCI PROGRAM SUMMARY

The South Carolina School Climate Initiative (SCSCI), primarily sought to reduce high rates of drug- and violence-related behavior in 23 schools across 13 school districts. The SCSCI worked with participating districts and schools to use annual school climate survey data – as well as discipline, incident, and other administrative data – to choose and implement interventions tailored to those districts' and schools' specific populations and needs. Grant activities paid special attention to expanding statewide data efforts by improving and integrating diverse data sources into one holistic system. In addition to focusing on increasing data collection and analysis capacity, the SCSCI prioritized building local school- and district-level capacity for preventing youth violence and substance use. The SCSCI intervention specialists used individualized plans to assist schools in assessing their school safety and climate needs.

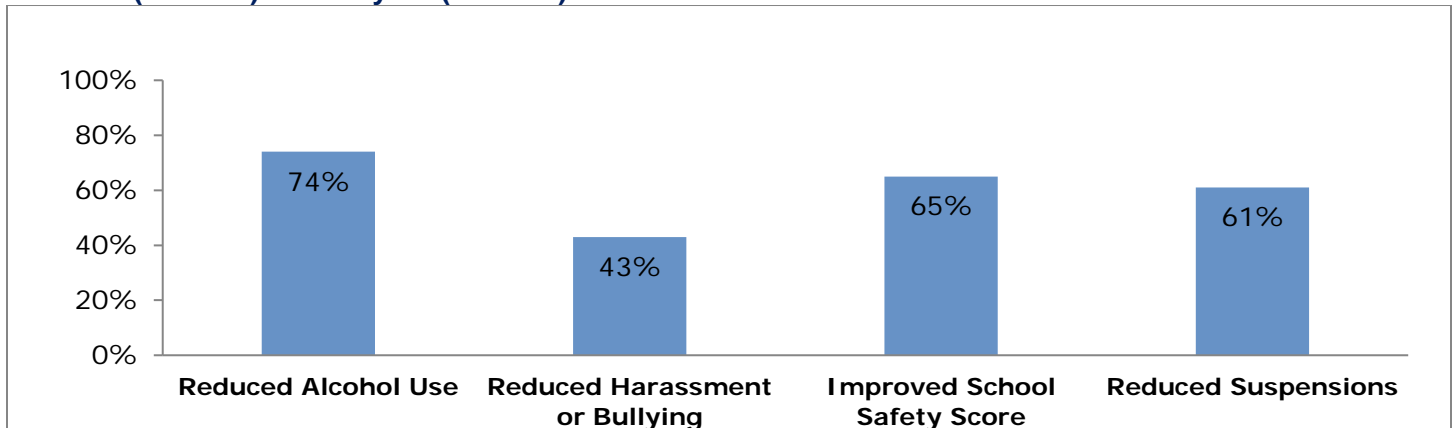
GOAL OF THE SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

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.

SUCCESSSES & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Percentage of fully implemented participating SC S3 schools that improved on GPRA measures, baseline (2012-13) to final year (2014-15)



- Two SCSCI statewide intervention specialists (i.e., “coaches”) served 11-12 schools each. They used four formats: just-in-time training, multimedia training, hands-on training (i.e., school visits and coach participation in community activities), and ongoing rigorous training on topics such as data mapping, goal setting, and data discovery activities.
- Principals reported that student engagement efforts were linked to higher expectations for students and an increased sense of pride, improved attitudes, and greater buy-in of students and staff.
- Schools created safe zones where students could be observers/reporters of potential incidents without fear of repercussions.
- School guidance counselors began actively using school climate data to guide advisory lessons.

DATA SOURCES

The SCSCI 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, attendance, truancy rate, suspension, and expulsion data were collected through [PowerSchool](#).

School Climate Surveys

The SCSCI administered surveys annually each spring to students, parents, and teachers during school years 2011–12 through 2014–15. Schools utilized the South Carolina High School Student Survey/Abbreviated Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) for students, the Report Card: Teacher Survey, and the South Carolina Parent Survey.

School Climate Safety Scores

South Carolina School Climate Scores (SC-SCS) were based on the South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) survey for students and school-level discipline referral incidence data. Survey and referral incidence measures accounted for 85 percent and 15 percent of the total SCS, respectively. Scores ranged from 0 to 100, with high scores representing a more positive school climate. The SC-SCS was calculated by computing the average of three equally weighted domains: safety, environment, and engagement.

INTERVENTION FRAMEWORKS, PROGRAMS, AND PRACTICES

Frameworks
• Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS)
Programs
• Botvin LifeSkills Training* • Brief Strategic Family Therapy (BSFT) • Capturing Kids' Hearts* • Check and Connect • High Schools That Work • Olweus Bullying Prevention • Project Achieve • Talent Development High School
<small>*Classified as an evidence-based program (EBP) on the National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) or What Works Clearinghouse.</small>
Practices
• Mentoring (100 Black Men of America and Concerned Black Men National)

SUSTAINABILITY AND SCALING UP

- School principals incorporated all school climate expenses into their budgets and built staff capacity to work on school climate through training and professional development.
- An intervention specialist worked with SC S3 schools during the 2014–15 school year to sustain the survey administration and data collection using SC's abbreviated YRBS and EOC surveys.
- School climate teams were trained on how to find and apply for grants. Their training included strategies for incorporating the work of current grant partners and seeking new partners (e.g., faith-based and other local organizations).

SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION S3 DEMOGRAPHICS

- Students served by project: 20,386
- Number of districts served: 13
- Number of schools served (as of final year): 23
 - 4 middle/high schools
 - 19 high schools
- Average school size: 886

Participating Districts	Participating Schools
1. Aiken	1. Midland Valley High School 2. Wagener-Sally High School
2. Bamberg	3. Denmark-Olar High School
3. Charleston	4. North Charleston High School 5. R. B. Stall High School 6. St. John's High School 7. Burke High School 8. West Ashley High School
4. Colleton	9. Colleton County High School
5. Dorchester	10. Woodland High School
6. Florence	11. South Florence High School 12. Wilson Senior High School
7. Greenville	13. Woodmont Senior High School
8. Jasper	14. Ridgeland-Hardeeville High School
9. Laurens	15. Laurens District 55 High School
10. Oconee	16. Tamassee-Salem Middle and High School*
11. Orangeburg	17. Branchville High School
12. Richland One	18. C. A. Johnson High School 19. Columbia High School 20. Lower Richland High School 21. Eau Claire High School 22. W.J. Keenan High School
13. York	23. Rock Hill High School

* This school has closed since the S3 grant concluded.

FURTHER DETAIL

- South Carolina state profile: <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/state-profiles/south-carolina>
- S3 Descriptive Study executive summary: <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/state-grantees/safe-and-supportive-school-s3-grants>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Grant holder: South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE)

WestEd consultants: Dan Mello, dmello@wested.org; Barbara Dietsch, bdietsc@wested.org; Sarah Guckenburg, sgucken@wested.org

Web site: <http://www.ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/sc-school-climate-initiative/>

Project director: Kimberly Smith, Program Director, KWSmith@ed.sc.gov