



E&R Report No. 02.27

June, 2002

**Wake County Safe Schools/ Healthy Students Project  
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Kristin Harlow, Amy Overbay, & Nancy Baenen**

The Wake County Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Project is a three-year federal cooperative effort sponsored by the Department of Education, the Department of Juvenile Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services. Wake County has identified four goals that correspond with the six elements, and seventeen strategies to prevent violence and substance abuse in schools (see Figure 1). By focusing on outcomes and sustainability, the Wake County project is working toward integrating data driven programs that were funded by the SS/HS grant into existing county and community agencies.

All WCPSS students were impacted by at least one SS/HS strategy. Overall, 3,315 individual students were served directly by SS/HS intervention programs, and 16,100 students participated in group prevention activities. Figure 2 provides the race/ethnicity, gender, free/reduced lunch status, and special programs distributions of SS/HS students compared to WCPSS in general. The proportion of Black students served by SS/HS programs is 97% greater than in WCPSS in general. In addition, the proportion of students receiving free or reduced lunch is 69% higher in SS/HS than in WCPSS in general. Finally, there are 91% more SS/SH students in special programs than in WCPSS in general. These demographic data point to the fact that SS/HS is serving the higher risk students in the system.

The Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) has collaborated with many community organizations in Year Three that will help sustain the impact of the SS/HS grant after the funding cycle has ended. They have built relationships with other agencies that allow all agencies to maximize their resources with the common goal of reducing juvenile crime in Wake County. In addition, the Partnership for Educational Success (PES) has created a much closer working relationship between the schools and Wake County Human Services (WCHS), which will ideally be a lasting effect of the SS/HS grant.

The SS/HS grant has had many **positive benefits**.

- ❑ Element one, the promotion of a safe school environment, has been promoted by security system installation, and use of the WAVE Line.
- ❑ Element two encompasses the alcohol, drug, and violence prevention and early intervention programs. Communities in Schools (CIS/CLP) mentoring program has had a positive effect on student achievement. Teen Court has used grant resources to expand the number of youth served, as well as the range of programs available for those youth.
- ❑ In element three, school and community mental health preventive and treatment intervention services, Children of Substance Abuse (COSA) groups drastically reduced the number of students reporting that they would use violence in the future. However, COSA students have not reported a decrease in the likelihood of drug or tobacco use.
- ❑ Element four addresses early childhood development services. The preschool Second Step program has resulted in teachers spending less time disciplining students.
- ❑ Element five encompasses five different curricula that reached over 15,000 WCPSS students so far in Year Three. Students participating in the Life Skills curriculum reported a decrease in the likelihood of using violence. Like COSA, they did not report a decrease in the likelihood of drug or tobacco use.
- ❑ Element six, safe schools policies, encompasses NovaNET, which was successful in improving students' ability to pass courses and get back on track to graduation. WCPSS will be funding most of the program beginning in 2002-2003.

In addition to the success of many SS/HS programs, **challenges** remain, and some components will not continue.

- ❑ Families and Schools Together (FAST) produced mixed results; in the fall, one school's program resulted in significant changes in the student and family measures, and the other did not. In addition, the administrative costs of the program were high. The decision has been made to not continue funding.
- ❑ CIS/CLP had some staffing issues that made recruiting mentors and working with other agencies a challenge during this report period.
- ❑ The Civic Responsibility curriculum did not result in any meaningful change on the student survey results and has been discontinued.
- ❑ The development of the Information Management System encountered some barriers that were more efficiently overcome by combining our software needs with the development of the statewide student database, NC Wise. As a result, the strategy was discontinued.

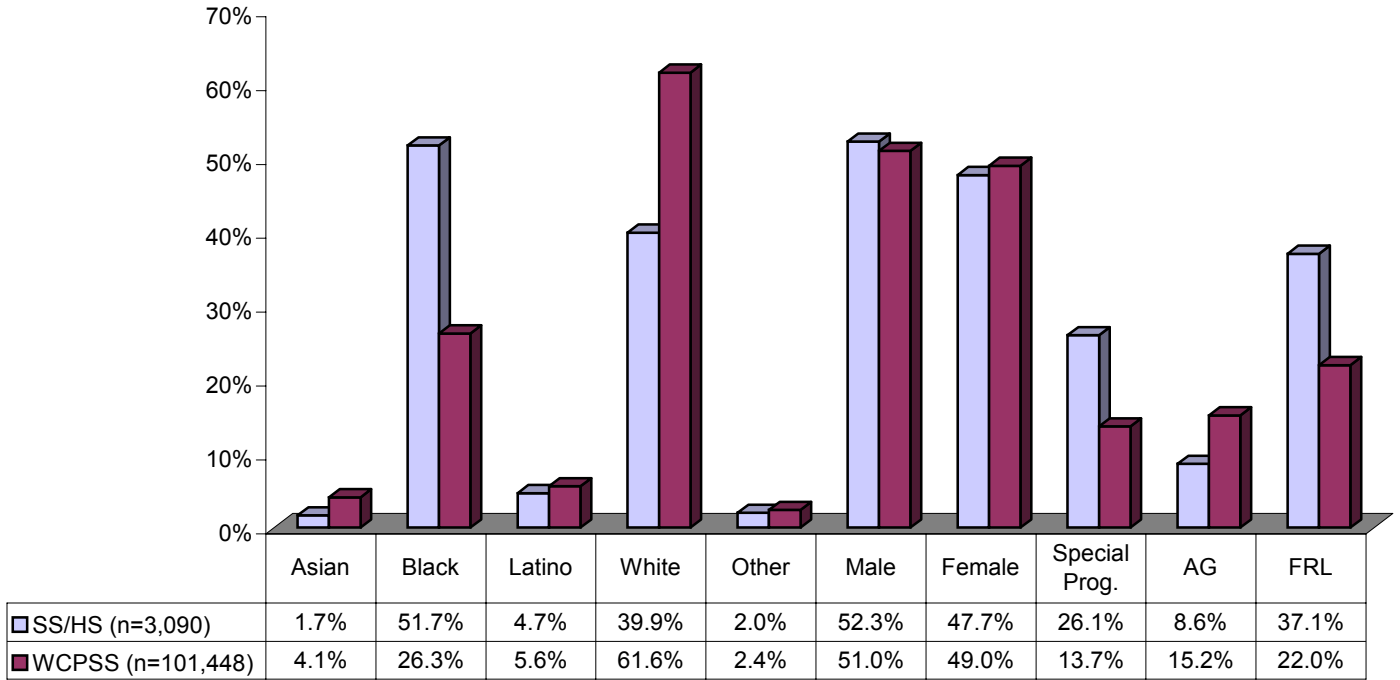
*The full report submitted to the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative is available online at: [http://www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/index\\_reports/testing\\_notebook\\_contents2.html](http://www.wcpss.net/evaluation-research/index_reports/testing_notebook_contents2.html)*

Figure 1. Relationship of Elements, Goals, and Strategies of the Wake County Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project

<b>Project Elements</b>	<b>Goals</b>	<b>Strategies</b>
All Elements (1-6)	A – Develop Improved Infrastructure	1, 3    Comprehensive Action Plan and Strategic Planning
		2    Training with Advisory Council & Community Representatives
1 – Safe School Environment	B – Safe and Secure Facilities	4    Facility Security
		5    WAVE Line Telephone Hotline
2 – Alcohol and Other Drug and Violence Prevention and Early Intervention	D – Community Capacity to Promote Positive Mental Health, Prosocial Behavior, and Prevent Violence	6    FAST (Families and Schools Together) Family Group Conferencing
		7    Mentors
		8    Teen Court
3 – School and Community Mental Health Preventive and Treatment Intervention Services	C – Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools	9    CA Team (Mental Health Counselors)
		10    Substance Abuse Prevention
4 – Early Childhood Psychosocial and Emotional Development Services	D – Community Capacity to Promote Positive Mental Health, Prosocial Behavior, and Prevent Violence	11    Parents As Teachers
		12    Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Second Step
5 – Educational Reform	C – Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools	13    Violence and Substance Abuse Curricula: 3Cs Civic Responsibility Get Real About Violence Second Step
	D – Community Capacity to Promote Positive Mental Health, Prosocial Behavior, and Prevent Violence	14    Youth Programming Enhancement
6 – Safe School Policies	C – Safe, Disciplined, and Drug-Free Schools	15    Information Management System
		16    Youth Infrastructure
		17    NovaNET

Figure 2

### SS/HS Demographics Compared to WCPSS



# Wake County Safe Schools/Healthy Students Project

## Year Three - Mid-Year Performance Report

October 1, 2001 – May 31, 2002

### Authors:

**Kristin Harlow, Evaluation Specialist**  
**Amy Overbay, Evaluation Assistant**  
**Nancy Baenen, Senior Director of Accountability**

### Contributing Staff

#### Contracted Support

Beverly Faircloth

#### Evaluation & Research Department

Dr. Karen Banks, Assistant Superintendent

#### SS/HS Office

Dr. Ron Anderson, Director

Lisa Watts, Budget Facilitator

#### SS/HS Project Contacts

Strategies 1, 2, & 3:

Sally Migliore

Strategies 4 & 5:

Corey Duber

John Rothecker

Strategy 6-FGC:

Pat Dodson

Giang Le

Strategies 6-FAST & 7:

Terry Nichols

Strategy 8:

Jill Harris

Peyton Young

Strategy 9:

Pam Wheeler

Strategy 10:

Hugh Willard

Strategy 11:

Robin Roberts

Strategies 12,

13-SS, & 13-GRAV:

Caren MacEntee

Strategy 13-3Cs:

Dr. Melissa DeRosier

Jeanne Tognela

Strategy 13-CR:

Nancy Cope

Strategy 14:

Lynda Muriera

Deborah Franko

Strategy 15:

Steve Daugherty

Strategy 16:

Sherry Hinkle

Jennie DeVoe

Strategy 17:

Eric Sparks

### Partner Agencies

Juvenile Crime Prevention Council

Wake County Public School System

Wake County Human Services

Office of Juvenile Justice

Community Learning Partners of Wake County

Southlight Drug Abuse Prevention Center

Raleigh Police Department

Wake County Sheriff's Department

ReEntry/Teen Court

Cooperative Extension Services

Triangle Family Services

North Carolina Center for Prevention of School

Violence

June, 2002

E&R Report No. 02.27

**Department of Evaluation and Research**

**Wake County Public School System**

**(919) 850-1840**