

School Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs & Curricula

Acts of violence and use of alcohol and drugs among students today have reached epidemic proportions. To combat these significant problems, Longview Independent School District believes a proactive approach to prevention must be taken for all grade levels, Pre-K through 12. LISD uses a comprehensive, researched based design, which builds on students' resiliency, tapping into their existing strengths to bounce back from even the most chaotic situation. LISD strategies target student risk factors at home, at school and in the community to reduce student involvement in acts of violence and with drugs. Our programs offer students protective factors to help them resist negative influences in their lives. Our philosophy is that all children are our children and all children can learn if they are provided a safe, healthy environment to survive and thrive. The truism, "It takes a village to raise a child," is of utmost importance to ensure a safe, learning environment. Listed below are some, but not all of the programs available to LISD students.

Elementary School (PK- 5) Curricula

DAVE (DRUG AND VIOLENCE EDUCATION), the state prevention curriculum, is designed to be infused into all subject areas as a tool to promote safety and health for young people. The infusion model offers students an opportunity to translate prevention strategies into real life situations supported by teachers and other school adults modeling no tolerance of violent behaviors or drug use by minors. This curriculum is available for all subject areas Pre-K through grade 12.

15 Days of Caring is a service learning IB (International Baccalaureate) Initiative to create caring classrooms, campuses, and communities for a better world. 15 Days of Caring reinforces all LISD anti-bullying programs by creating a campaign wherein students practice positive behaviors, develop character, and take actions which have a global impact.

Forever Friends is a volunteer-based mentoring program sponsored by Partners in Prevention that matches fifth grade through high school girls with community women. Mentors meet with their mentees as a group on a regular basis. The essence of the program is the one-to-one relationship between each mentee and their mentor. Mentors nurture and guide their mentees, helping girls to gain self-confidence and develop strong character.

Co-Pilots are a volunteer-based mentoring program sponsored by Partners in Prevention which pairs young males grades 5-12 with an individual mentor. Unlike Forever Friends, this program is based entirely on the one-to-one relationship between the student and a caring, supportive adult. Research shows that on-going mentoring has a lasting impact on student achievement and character development.

Core Essentials, PK-5, is a character education program. It was developed by a non-profit corporation and is provided by Chick-fil-A, a community-school partner. Core Essentials connects the business and the faith community with local area school districts to support character development for students in our community.

Communities in Schools is the nation's leading dropout prevention program for at-risk students and one of the few that both increases graduation rates and decreases dropout rates. Recent studies commissioned by the Texas Education Agency indicate that Communities in Schools is an effective dropout prevention program. It provides students with a community of support, empowers them to stay in school and graduate high school with a plan to enter the workforce, the military, a trade/technical school, or college.

Guidance Counselors in the elementary schools use a variety of approved curriculums in classroom guidance and small group activities, which address conflict resolution, suicide prevention, bullying, other acts of violence, and methods to deal with such situations. They are available to counsel with students and parents individually and make referrals to community resources providing social services.

Junior Achievement which is taught by business community volunteers prepares students for the world of work and encourages students to begin making career choices. There is a direct correlation in decreasing acts of school violence and drug usage when students pursue career goals.

Terrific Tuesdays is a program that provides character development, enrichment, and life skills to elementary students.

Trevor Romaine-- *Bullies are a Pain in the Brain (grades 1-6)* develops vital self-management, social and interpersonal relationship skills by combining a systematic reading and writing curriculum with a theme-based bully prevention content that students can connect to their own lives. This curriculum utilizes both the components of teaching resistance to bullying tactics and the very important, often neglected, component of replacing the negative behaviors with positive behaviors. LISD is the first district in the State of Texas to implement District-wide intervention through a systematic and systemic ELA/Bully Prevention curriculum.

Watch Dogs Program is a program devised to increase fathers' involvement in LISD. It offers a variety of ways for fathers to volunteer on their child's campus.

Middle School (6-8) Curricula

DAVE ... See description in the elementary section.

Junior Achievement ... See description in the elementary section.

Forever Friends and Co-Pilot Mentoring are available for students needing additional support. See description above.

Watch Dogs Program ... See description in the elementary section.

STARS, a Buckner afterschool program, offers tutoring, games and fun activities for students.

Communities in Schools ... See description in the elementary section.

Thrive360 is the delivery of asset rich programs for children through mentored relationships. *Young Ladies with Purpose (YLWP)* and *The Inner Man (TIM)* are two of its most notable mentoring projects. Thrive360 is an after-school program often referred to as *Beyond the Bell* which aims to guide youth to opportunities and success. The program offers homework help, self-development, leadership building exercises, parenting resources, fine arts activities, and STEM-based clubs.

Guidance Counselors offer classroom guidance on a limited basis teaching conflict resolution skills, goal setting, suicide prevention, anti-bullying and career guidance activities. Student assistance counselors provide support groups for students demonstrating a need for more protective factors in order to minimize negative influences on their lives. They are also available to do crisis counseling.

High School (9-12) Curricula

DAVE ... See description in the elementary school section.

Forever Friends and Co-Pilot Mentoring are available for students needing additional support. See description above.

Communities in Schools ... See description in the elementary section.

At Risk Counselors, James Bowie & Melanie Hudson, provide prevention and early intervention services addressing such topics as suicide and bullying. All high school students identified as at risk are able to access Mr. Bowie's services by staff or self-referral. Mr. Bowie also provides transition services to those students returning to LHS from the Dade Center and the Juvenile Detention Center.

LHS guidance counselors are available to do individual and some small group counseling as well as academic guidance counseling. Counselors are trained as referral sources to assist students and parents in accessing community health and human service agencies. Guidance counselors are also trained as crisis intervention specialists.

Early Graduation High School (9-12) Curricula

East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse (ETCADA) provides life skills and substance abuse prevention courses.

East Texas Center for Independent Living offers life skills and employability skills for special education students.

Buckner Children and Family Services also delivers life skills and employability skills.

Women's Center of East Texas provides information on dating violence, self-esteem building, and the empowerment of young women.

Project Reach, sponsored by Wellness Pointe, empowers young men to succeed.

District-Wide Programs & Initiatives

15 Days of Caring is a service learning IB (International Baccalaureate) Initiative to create caring classrooms, campuses, and communities for a better world. 15 Days of Caring reinforces all LISD anti-bullying programs by creating a campaign wherein students practice positive behaviors, develop character, and take actions which have a global impact.

LISD Cares is another service learning IB (International Baccalaureate) Initiative in which every LISD campus and department participated in a campaign for caring. This campaign met local, national, and international needs. LISD staff demonstrated their generosity and capacity for caring thereby further reinforcing the practice of positive action and strong character to the students of LISD.

Red Ribbon Week is an activity partially supported by the Coalition for Drug Free Youth. LISD students participate in a Red Ribbon Essay Contest with entries related to specific topics that support drug free youth. There are a variety of campus activities including wearing red ribbons, drug free theme days ... For example, students wear college shirts on Team Up Against Drugs Day, and they wear crazy socks for Knock Your Socks Off for Being Drug Free Day. More recently, some campuses participated in “Slammed the door on drugs” door decorating event during Red Ribbon Week as part of the National Family Partnership’s Red Ribbon Week Photo Contest.

The Do’s & Don’ts of Discipline by Dennis Mitchell is professional development which focuses on behavior management in the classroom and has been implemented District-wide to promote positive behavior.

Community Component of the LISD Student Assistance Program

LISD is fortunate to coordinate with its community partners who work diligently to help its students succeed. The Partners in Prevention (PIP), a community prevention coalition, supports LISD by providing outstanding mentoring programs such as Forever Friends and Co-Pilots. Each summer the PIP and its numerous community partners provide three two-week summer camps, which create a safe, healthy, learning environment for children identified as needing enrichment opportunities. The PIP also sponsors an Adopt a School Partnership for the three Longview school districts. Partners in Prevention (PIP) facilitates the Race Relations Committee, A Circle of Friends. This group meets monthly as a study group seeking ways to promote racial harmony. PIP also facilitates the Coalition for a Drug-Free Youth mentioned above regarding Red Ribbon Week. This group is a collaboration of organizations and citizens working to reduce crime and youth substance abuse. Several LISD administrators serve on one or more of the above referenced committees.

Longview ISD also receives support from the East Texas Council on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Parenting Resource Center of East Texas, Community Health Core, Women’s Center of East Texas, Special Health Resources for Texas, Longview Wellness Pointe, Child Protective Services, Department of Health, and numerous other community groups.

Working together with our community partners, LISD can make a difference in the lives of our students and families by promoting safe, healthy, drug free students.