



JEFFERSON COUNTY, BIRMINGHAM CITY AND SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOLS, ALABAMA

Jefferson County Schools, in partnership with the Center for Civic Education, has participated in the School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program (SVPDP) since 2001. The program, which is implemented in elementary, middle, and high schools across three school districts, serves as a catalyst for empowering young people to make a positive difference in their schools and communities by providing quality training in civic education and the importance of civic engagement by all citizens at all levels of government.

Currently, we offer training to teachers and counselors living in the 4th, 6th, and 7th Congressional Districts. This year, in addition to Jefferson County Schools, the program has expanded to Shelby County Schools and Birmingham City Schools. Over the past nine years, SVPDP has reached more than 5,000 students and 187 educators. After their initial year of training, 130 teachers continue to use the program's curricular materials in their classrooms.

In 2005, the Jefferson County School Board of Education formally incorporated the SVPDP curricula as elective social studies and exploratory classes. The school district also adopted the SVPDP Project Citizen curriculum as the project model for schools to use to meet state requirements for seventh-grade community action projects. In addition to offering We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution as an advanced course, it is also used to prepare students for the Alabama High School Graduation Exam.

We are also very proud of the fact that Congressman Artur Davis, 7th Congressional District, served as the keynote speaker at the 2007 SVPDP annual retreat. His call to action to educators and the community-at-large to combat the growing problem of students dropping out of school and out of life was inspirational.

JEFFERSON COUNTY PROGRAM IMPACT			
	September 2009–May 2010	September 2001–June 2009	Total
Schools	9	120	129*
School Districts	3	2,880	3,725
Students	563	4,765	5,328
Teachers	14	173	187

*Total number refers to participating school sites involved, some of which have continued for more than one year.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ANECDOTES

- U.S. Congressman Artur Davis served as the featured guest speaker at the 2007 Retreat
- Project Citizen Showcase held at the JefCoEd Central Office Building
- Student work was featured at national Project Citizen Showcases
- SVPDP students achieved the following successes for their communities as a result of their enrollment in the program:
 - Crosswalk installed at McAdory Elementary School
 - With the help of second- and third-grade students, Fultondale Elementary School has a playground
 - Recycling program started at Clay Chalkville Middle School
 - A student-directed tutorial program for Hueytown Middle School
 - The removal of abandoned houses and a face-lift for the community of Brighton

- An academic computer lab for Minor High School
- School crossing guards at Rudd Middle School
- A \$20,000 upgrade to Rudd Middle School's baseball field funded by the Jefferson County Commission
- Irondale Community School third-graders developed a safer way to drop off and pick up students at their school
- Covered walkways between buildings for Hueytown High School
- City-supported computer equipment and necessary repairs for Fultondale High School
- Adamsville Elementary School fifth-graders received \$30,000 in donations for renovations to Blackwell Park
- Bryan Elementary School fifth-graders' SVPDP Project Citizen portfolio research resulted in a traffic light being installed at a dangerous intersection in the Morris community
- A paid fire department for the community of Trussville

QUOTES

You don't have to have a lot of money and people to change your environment.

STUDENT

Because of this program I want to do more for the community.

STUDENT

I believe that by participating in this program students will have a better understanding of our government, our country, and the responsibilities of the citizens of the United States. They will have a better understanding of how each person's actions affects others in our room, school, and community making them more active citizens.

JILL U. HARRIS, FIRST-GRADE TEACHER, CLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program is wonderful! It empowers children and makes them agents of change in their community. It makes seventh-grade civics alive and relevant for my students.

SABRINA PORRILL, SEVENTH-GRADE PRE-AP TEACHER, BRAGG MIDDLE SCHOOL

The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program teaches lessons that teach the students strategies that help with everyday issues. They now have new ways of handling and dealing with everyday problems.

SETZER PRICE, THIRD-GRADE TEACHER, BROWN ELEMENTARY

This has been a great experience thus far. The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program has enlightened me, giving me insight that will help my students deal with everyday issues that I previously addressed on the surface. This program should be mandated throughout the inner city, perhaps preventing the violence students encounter on a day-to-day basis. If students learn alternatives, the issues would not become problems.

JOSEPHINE RUCKER, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, PRICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program has been a great experience. I have learned several intervention strategies to implement in my classroom. I have learned more about laws and responsibility. My students have enjoyed the activities.

YVARTA HENDERSON, KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, PRICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program is an outstanding program overall. The information is easy to teach, and the program meets the needs of students of all ages, abilities, and grade levels. In addition, the program allows students to interact with their learning to make a personal connection.

PORTRICE WARREN, FOURTH-GRADE TEACHER, BIRMINGHAM CITY SCHOOLS

The School Violence Prevention Demonstration Program is a very beneficial program. It helps the students as well as the teachers. The different lessons help you become open-minded and make you think more creatively. For example, the lessons on responsibility and privacy were very powerful. We learned so much and it helps you look at things differently.

RICHELL CRAIG, FOURTH-GRADE TEACHER, MINOR COMMUNITY SCHOOL

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT



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