

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Office of Evaluation and Research
1500 Biscayne Boulevard
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**Evaluation of the
Middle School Component of the TRUST Program**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The TRUST (To Reach Ultimate Success Together) Program is a comprehensive assistance program designed to provide services to students who are experiencing problems with substance abuse and other self-destructive behaviors. The TRUST Program in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools (MDCPS) is currently implemented in all senior high schools, all middle schools, all K-8 centers and five elementary schools (see Table 1). The present evaluation focuses on the middle school component of the program. The district's Office of Evaluation and Research conducted the evaluation.

The evaluation revealed that the TRUST Program has had a very favorable impact on middle school students. The program has positively impacted students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors regarding alcohol, tobacco and illicit drugs. Although the number of related incidents did not decrease during the 2-year period under scrutiny, neither did they increase. This can be viewed as at least stemming the tide. In regards to fighting and bullying, the program has positively impacted students' knowledge, attitudes and behaviors. According to MDCPS records, the number of related incidents decreased during the 2-year period. Lastly, the impact of the TRUST Program is most dramatically exhibited by the anecdotal accounts of the students who have been positively influenced by it. The TRUST Program is clearly having a positive impact in the schools, but the impact could be greater.

To this end, the following recommendations are made:

1. Establish a timetable for the presentation of the prevention curriculum.
2. Promote uniformity in the content of the prevention curriculum.

Additional information available from the
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