Project ACHIEVE

Website: www.projectachieve.info

Project ACHIEVE is a comprehensive school reform and improvement program that targets all students’ academic and social development. Its most notable components include the Positive Behavioral Support System (PBSS), anchored by the Stop and Think Social Skills Program, Positive Academic Supports and Services (PASS), and the SPRINT/RtI (School Prevention, Review, and Intervention Team/Response to Intervention) process. The aim for students is to maximize their academic, social, emotional, and behavioral progress, mastery, and proficiency. This includes helping students improve their resilience, protective factors, and effective self-management and self-competency skills so that they are better able to resist unhealthy and maladaptive behaviors, settings, and situations. The aim for staff is to ensure effective instruction and classroom management as well as supports and services for students who are not responding with academic and behavioral success. The aim for schools is to help them to be successful for all students. To achieve these goals, Project ACHIEVE uses a systematic strategic planning and organizational development process to implement prevention programs that focus on the needs of all students, strategic intervention programs for at-risk and underachieving students, and comprehensive, multi-faceted “wrap-around” programs for students with intensive or crisis-oriented needs.

Target Audience

The target audience for Project ACHIEVE is youth ages 3–18. The program has been used in public schools, private and alternative schools, special education centers, psychiatric and juvenile justice facilities, Head Start/preschool programs, and specialized charter schools, and has been implemented in urban, suburban, and rural schools. It has been adapted for implementation in American Indian/Alaska Native schools and communities and for use in state schools with students who have special needs.

Program Components

Project ACHIEVE uses professional development and ongoing technical assistance to target and reinforce critical staff skills and intervention approaches. The program incorporates a continuum of student services, including prevention, strategic intervention, and crisis management, and consists of seven interdependent components implemented over three years:

- Strategic planning and organizational analysis and development
- Data-based problem-solving, RtI, teaming, and consultation processes (SPRINT/RtI)
- Effective school, schooling, and professional development
- Academic instruction linked to academic assessment, supports, intervention, and achievement (PASS)
- Age-appropriate social skills instruction linked to behavioral assessment, intervention, self-management, and PBSS
- Parent and community training, support, and outreach
- Data management, evaluation, and accountability
Training and Technical Assistance

Project ACHIEVE is implemented in a series of evidence-based steps that occur over a three-year period, involving the school's (and often district's) entire instructional, administrative, and support staff. Training typically involves in-service training, classroom-based demonstrations, and technical assistance and follow-up. These are supported by comprehensive and targeted professional development resources that include (a) assessment and intervention kits and tools, (b) electronic and other books and technical assistance documents, and (c) Web- and software-based instruction and evaluation systems and materials.

Costs

The costs of implementing Project ACHIEVE depend on the school or district's existing resources and support systems. On-site professional development, consultation, and technical assistance are provided by Project ACHIEVE, Inc., throughout the year and during the summer. A school with 500 students and 50 instructional staff would cost an estimated $55,000 in Year 1, $42,000 in Year 2, and $30,000 in Year 3. Other costs associated with the program may include those related to specially designated professional development days, participant stipends, and substitute teachers.

Schools or districts may obtain training to help them implement Project ACHIEVE without the need for ongoing Project ACHIEVE services and consultative support. This “training of facilitators” is typically done by training school or district staff alongside the Project ACHIEVE trainers during the first three years of Project ACHIEVE implementation in a targeted school or schools, and providing additional leadership training in a series of three summer institutes. The first institute involves a five-day training costing $31,000; the second and third institutes each involve a three-day training costing $19,500. Prices include materials and the fees for two consultants.

Evaluation Results

Outcomes include:

- A 42% decrease in office discipline referrals
- Decreases in administrative actions
- Increases in academic performance on literacy and math