

Summary of Involvement for Beatrice Public Schools  
Beatrice, Nebraska  
Safe & Responsive Schools Project  
2000-2001

Four schools in the Beatrice Public School district continued their participation in the Safe & Responsive Schools project during the 2000-2001 school year. These participating schools include four elementary schools and the high school. Although the Beatrice Middle School is not currently involved in the project, there is a standing invitation to re-join the project at any time.

Throughout the summer and the current school year, the SRS teams began the process of implementing the plans that had been developed the previous school year. These plans were designed to address the core areas of the project including creating a positive climate, early identification and intervention, and effective responses.

Beatrice High School. The Beatrice High School SRS team implemented a new procedure of Time-Out this year. The purpose of Time-Out was to afford students and teachers a break from the situation and to allow for a brief cool-down period for instances that did not warrant an office referral. Teachers were allowed to send a student to Time-Out if the classroom educational process was being interrupted because of the student's actions and presence in the classroom, and if the teacher deemed that no administrative involvement was necessary. Students sent to the designated Time-Out room then completed a problem-solving form with a para-educator. Students who successfully completed the problem solving form and complied with the Time-Out rules were then allowed to return to their next scheduled class. In an effort to evaluate the effectiveness of this procedure, a research assistant from the SRS project was given access to the completed problem-solving forms and was able to compile data on the frequency of referrals per teacher and per student, behaviors students were referred for, and whether the forms were filled out appropriately by the students. In addition, teachers were given a five-question survey in an effort to assess their knowledge of the Time-Out procedure, their use of it, and their feedback regarding its implementation. After reviewing the data obtained from the problem-solving forms as well as from the teacher survey, the SRS is currently in the process of improving the Time-Out procedure and its effectiveness. One change that has been made is a name change – the Time-Out procedure is now referred to as OCI or Out of Classroom Intervention. The SRS team will continue to monitor the procedure and make necessary improvements.

Beatrice High School also implemented this school year a program called BASE (Beatrice After-School Education). BASE is a student management program that deals with students who chronically come in contact with school policy and have not been able to adjust appropriately to basic behavior guidelines as set forth in district policies. BASE may be used as a program assignment for students who have received an out-of-school suspension, as a tutoring program for students who are behind in class assignments, and as an alternative program for students who do not regularly attend school or have been assigned a long-term suspension. BASE begins at 4:00 pm and ends at 6:00 pm, Monday through Thursday. The SRS team is currently in the process of evaluating the

effectiveness of this program; however, it appears that the process has been useful particularly for out-of-school suspended students.

The third plan proposed by the Beatrice High School SRS team targeted parental involvement. The SRS team continues to work with the parent council to coordinate activities to further involve parents in the daily workings of school life.