

Safe & Responsive Schools Project  
Summary of Involvement  
Beatrice Public Schools  
1999-2000

Five schools in the Beatrice Public School district participated in the Safe and Responsive Schools Project during the 1999-2000 school year. These participating schools included four elementary schools and the high school. The Beatrice Middle School participated in the project for approximately one month and then suspended their involvement due to their previous commitment to another project (the middle school is invited to re-join the project at any time).

In October, teams began to form at each of the levels, with the elementary schools pairing with each other to form two teams. A total of 27 school personnel, representing general educators, special educators, administrators, counselors, nurses, and school psychologists, participated in the project across the five schools.

For the first several meetings, team members individually completed the Safe and Responsive Schools Needs Assessment and then discussed as a team their responses to questions addressing Creating a Positive Climate, Early Identification and Intervention, and Effective Responses. Each team then prioritized their concerns, or areas in which they wanted to improve, and began to formulate the plans to address each area.

### **District-Wide**

Both elementary teams, in conjunction with the entire school district, are working to modify the current Student Assistance Team, or pre-referral process (Early Identification and Intervention). This past summer, Dr. Chris Ormsbee from the University of Oklahoma conducted a two-day workshop for teachers on early intervention teams. Team members are working towards making SAT teams more effective, paperwork less time-consuming, and outcomes more positive.

Additionally, a district wide team, which involved key school and community members including the police and fire departments, developed a district safety plan and compiled a booklet for all staff regarding procedures for crisis and emergency situations. During the 2000-2001 school year, practice drills will be conducted periodically to help familiarize staff & students with the various procedures.