



S O S

Transition

PROJECT SOS IS REQUESTING \$301,182.50 PER YEAR TO IMPACT THE LIVES OF 21,061 SIXTH GRADERS IN 15 NORTH FLORIDA COUNTIES (*Duval, Clay, Nassau, St. Johns, Union, Baker, Columbia, Lafayette, Suwanee, Hamilton, Taylor, Madison, Jefferson, Wakulla and Leon*).

This curriculum plan will replicate the current pilot program that has been successfully implemented in 11 Duval County Title 1 middle schools.

Each North Florida regional school district will assign one county curriculum liaison for Project SOS to work with and to over site the district teacher(s) who will be implementing the SOS Transition Course to their incoming 6th graders in middle schools. Curriculum training will be done by multimedia (including webinar, simulcast video, Skype, etc.) Teachers will receive the curriculum during pre-planning and prior to training. Curriculum coaching will be delivered by two Project SOS Transition Course experts using the EDUTAINMENT model of teaching. For evaluation purposes, there will be both a pre and a post test evaluation administered and a six month follow-up evaluation.

The evaluation of the pilot program in Duval County showed statistical significant improvement in the following areas:

- Having written SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Realistic, Time-based)
- Knowing the signs of healthy relationships and friendships
- Establishing personal boundaries to help avoid unhealthy choices
- Realizing the importance of education for future success
- Having a positive view of the future
- Having effective study habits
- Identifying caring adults for academic, emotional and social support
- Having high self-esteem

The SOS Transition Course's FINANCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT, according to research done by Social Capital Valuation, LLC, in 2013, is a savings of \$7.97 for every \$1.00 spent in the first year. The estimated return on this \$1.00 investment from a lifetime value is \$140.71.

Project SOS was established in 1993 as a 501(c)3 corporation. Since its beginning, 400,000 teenagers have learned the skills to focus on their goals and be able to avoid negative peer pressure. Skills that are taught include establishing six personal boundaries and six refusal skills, conflict resolution, anti-bullying, healthy communication, respect for self and others, suicide prevention and much more.

Teenage statistics for Northeast Florida include a:

- **64% reduction in teen birth rates to females 15-17 years of age**
- **35% reduction in juvenile crime**
- **28% reduction in drugs and alcohol use**