

## **Federal Grant Funds Prevention, Preparedness, Response and Recovery planning in District 279: Prevention is Pivotal Element of an Effective Emergency Plan**

Schools across the country have responded to the need to make the places where students learn, and teachers teach, as safe as they can possibly be. The key, however, rests in developing a balanced, comprehensive plan that addresses the four elements crisis management experts say are essential—prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

Of these four, *prevention* is without a doubt the most pivotal. Why? An effective prevention plan has the potential of significantly reducing the incidence of crisis. That, in part, is what the federal Emergency Response and Crisis Management grant sought to do—develop prevention strategies to reduce or eliminate potential crisis situations. Here are a few examples of the prevention strategies implemented in the last year: The district established a mini-grant program that provided funds to schools ranging from \$400-700 for individual schools. Schools used this money in a number of ways, including the purchase of anti-bullying and anti-harassment materials and for staff training in the same area. The District will also be establishing a district tip line which will give parents and students a way to take a stand against the *code of silence* in schools. Another prevention measure is the parent safety forums, which are intended to increase parent and community awareness about issues of student safety.

Two evenings of information to help keep kids safe are scheduled in March 2006:

### **March 2**

North View Junior High School

5869 - 69<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Brooklyn Park

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Speaker: Captain Mike Martin on gangs

Break out sessions: K-12 Bullying; Suicide Prevention; Preventing and Surviving Violent Assaults and Abductions; and Gangs

### **March 9**

Maple Grove Senior High

9800 Fernbrook Lane N., Maple Grove

6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

Speaker: Tim Schulz on methamphetamines

Break out sessions: K-12 Bullying; Suicide Prevention; Preventing and Surviving Violent Assaults and Abductions; and Methamphetamines

Child care and transportation is provided upon request by calling 763-391-7119.

If you have questions about this article or would like more information about the District's emergency plan, please call Lisa Hunter Jensen, School/Community Relations Director, at 763-391-7002.