

Utah's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities PK-12 Prevention Program

Health Education 4th Grade

Sydnee Dickson, Ed.D. State Superintendent of Public Instruction www.schools.utah.gov



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Prevention Dimensions Overview

Prevention Dimensions (PD) is a set of resource lessons which support the Utah State Office of Education prekindergarten through twelfth grade health core and Utah's Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities. The program began in 1982 as a joint effort between the



Utah State Division of Substance Abuse, Utah State Department of Health, Utah State Office of Education, and Utah State PTA. Prevention Dimensions is one of the many dimensions of prevention education used by Utah schools and communities to insure the success of Utah students.

The mission of PD is to give students a strong foundation of effective violence and substance abuse prevention skills. The lessons are age-appropriate and meet the objectives through a scope and sequence methodology.

PD is based on the risk and protective factors prevention model identified through research by Drs. David Hawkins and Richard Catalano of the University of Washington. Studies have shown that young people with identified risk factors are more likely to engage in substance abuse and other antisocial behaviors. Conversely, students with strong protective factors are less likely to engage in substance abuse and antisocial behaviors. Lessons are therefore designed to decrease the risk factors and promote protective factors.

PD teacher trainings develop teacher skills to teach proven prevention strategies, impart knowledge, and help students maintain positive prevention attitude.

Statewide surveys conducted by the Utah Division of Substance Abuse indicate the positive outcomes of the PD skill objectives. The PD Steering Committee uses these surveys to identify effectiveness of strategies utilized in the PD lessons and periodically revises lessons to meet current trends. The continual submission of teacher evaluation data will assist PD in moving to



a "best practices" program.

Prevention Dimensions revisions include the 1990 alignment of lessons to better assist teachers in integration of prevention as part of the school day; 1994 inclusion of necessary prevention components based on Botvin's life skill research and sophistication of secondary lessons; 1996 music component enhancement project; 1996 inclusion of Search Institutes 40 Developmental Assets; 1999 inclusion of media literacy lessons; 2000-2001 State Health Department inclusion of research-based tobacco lessons; 2002 revision

of lesson content; 2003 formatting and redesign of lesson appearance: 2010 added 3 C's [I care for myself. I care for others. I care for the community.] and training on negotiating and mediation skills; 2010 revised lesson format and content.



Young people can overcome the many risk factors in society when they see positive examples, hear clear and consistent messages and practice healthy living. Prevention Dimensions has become a powerful tool for teachers to increase protective factors in students' lives.

How to use these materials

Prevention Dimensions begins with five foundation lessons that teach core concepts of caring about self, others and the community. These lessons are bracketed in the table of contents and should be taught to students before any other lessons. The first five lessons are aligned between grades to insure common vocabulary and core ideas are taught by the entire school. It is suggested that schools choose specific dates to teach each foundation lesson (lesson 1, lesson 2 etc.).

Teaching the five lessons first will help students -

- identify and express feelings.
- build skills to solve personal trials and the negative feelings often associated with such life events (called bugs or rocks).
- make smart choices about personal health.
- strengthen decision making skills for self and groups.

The remaining lessons may be taught in any order. Notice that all the lessons refer to the concepts in the five foundation lessons. Prevention Dimensions is useful in many issues which arise in the typical classroom including –

- making smart and healthy choices about personal health including abstinence from alcohol tobacco/nicotine and other drugs
- understanding and expressing thoughts and feelings in constructive and healthy ways
- building positive and constructive connections with others
- personalizing skills to stop unhealthy behaviors and adopting more robust and productive alternatives
- goal setting
- personal safety
- mental health awareness
- violence prevention
- bullying prevention
- working together
- law and order
- ways to resist negative peer pressure
- media literacy
- building family traditions

Prevention Dimensions (PD) is both an effective and efficient classroom tool for teachers to provide a comprehensive behavioral health foundation for students. Prevention Dimension is a gem owned and distributed free of charge to Utah educators by the Utah State Office of

Education and should be championed by all who want the best outcomes for student success.



Introduction

Strategies

Share

Stand up

Ask

Tie in the 3 Cs

I care about others. I care about community.

Conclusion

A Short Note About Page Formatting

The left hand part of the page lists lesson parts and teaching processes. The lesson introduction, strategies and conclusion are noted as well as actions that the teacher will use to teach various parts of the lesson.

The right hand part of the page organizes the content of the lessons.

Words written in light print are ideas and information for the teacher. They give the teacher background information to use with the lesson.

Words written in normal type are for the teacher to voice to the students. These are words the students will hear and questions they will answer.





The 3Cs are central to all the lessons in Prevention Dimensions. You will note a reference to the 3Cs in every lesson and are encouraged to help students understand these concepts.

Formally, Prevention Dimensions used the "3Rs of Respect – Respect self; Respect others; Respect the environment. A review of prevention literature suggested that the concept of respect was often accompanied by a demand. "You will respect me!" Sometimes someone can demand respect and do it with arrogant or demeaning intentions.

Care, according to the literature, is difficult to demand and is more often given. We give care as a choice. It is hard to say, "You will care about me!" and expect to receive more than a cursory feeling of obligation.

Students can and do learn to care about themselves, care about others in their group, and care for the community and environment as a whole.



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