

Drug Coordinators — *EW*
January 13, 1998

NOTE TO MIKE, TOM, JOSE AND LEEANNE--

Here is the latest draft of the Department of Education's write-up on the middle school drug coordinators initiative, which is based on a concept that ONDCP has been pushing and is budgeted at \$50 million.

Some of these numbers are still subject to change. Note especially the current estimate that the program would allow districts to hire 1,300 drug coordinators nationwide and that this would allow services to 6,500 high schools -- if coordinators assisted an average of 5 schools apiece.

-- Bill

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

DRAFT

Safe and drug-free schools and communities: Coordinator Initiative (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, Title IV, Part A, Subpart 2)

1999 Authorization (\$000s): Indefinite

Budget authority (\$000s):

<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>Change</u>
--	\$50,000	+\$50,000

PURPOSE AND METHOD OF OPERATION

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Coordinator Initiative is a 5-year, major new effort proposed by the Administration in support of the National Drug Control Strategy. Under this initiative, the Department would fund drug and violence prevention program coordinators in middle schools. These Safe and Drug-Free Schools coordinators would be responsible for: developing, conducting, and analyzing assessments of their schools' drug and crime problems; identifying promising, research-based drug and violence prevention strategies and programs to address those problems; assisting teachers, coaches, counselors, and other school officials in adopting and implementing those programs and strategies; working with the community to ensure that the needs of students are linked with available community resources; assisting in the development and implementation of evaluation strategies; identifying alternative funding sources for drug and violence prevention initiatives; and providing feedback to State educational agencies on programs and activities that have proven to be successful in reducing drug use and violent behavior among school-aged youth.

This initiative would be funded through a grant competition under Safe and Drug-Free Schools National Programs, using an absolute priority to be published by the Department in the *Federal Register*. Under this priority, the Department would target the funds on middle schools with the worst drug and violence problems.

1999 BUDGET REQUEST

For 1999, the Administration is requesting \$50 million for the Safe and Drug-Free Schools Coordinator Initiative. Of this amount, the Department would use approximately \$47.5 million for grants to local educational agencies to pay for the salaries and benefits of the coordinators, \$1 million for intensive training and professional development activities for the coordinators, and \$1.5 million for an evaluation of the initiative.

By providing schools with trained personnel who are experts in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating successful drug and violence prevention programs in schools, this initiative would support the Department's efforts to translate research into practice and improve the quality and effectiveness of prevention programming. It therefore directly supports Goal 1 of the National Drug Control Strategy, which calls on the Federal Government to help educate and enable America's youth to reject illegal drugs as well as alcohol and tobacco. It is also

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

Safe and drug-free schools and communities: Coordinator initiative

directly addresses Objective 1.3 of the Department's Strategic Plan, which calls for actions to help ensure that all schools in America are strong, safe, disciplined, and drug-free.

At the proposed funding level, this initiative will support approximately 1,300 coordinators. Assuming that each coordinator will be able to serve five separate schools, the 1999 request will fund coordinators for approximately 6,500 middle schools -- almost one-half of the middle schools in the country.

Performance indicators for this initiative are under development.

IMPACT DATA (\$ In 000s)

	1999
Grant award funds	\$47,000
Number of awards	130
Average award	\$362
Training and professional development	\$1,000
Evaluation	\$1,500
Peer review of new award applications	\$500