

A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS

My first year in the Office of Safe & Supportive Schools has been full of exciting new learning opportunities. This spring our office will be implementing new initiatives and opportunities for districts to improve learning conditions for students. These initiatives include the Conditions for Learning Forum, Tennessee School Safety Specialist Program, new grant competitions for 21st CCLC and LEAPS, and S3 Youth Summits. I hope you will take advantage of these opportunities to learn about best practices to better serve students.

As you know, ePlan is coming! ePlan is Tennessee's Electronic Planning and Grants Management System. Beginning 2014-2015 all grant applications, reimbursement requests for 21st CCLC, LEAPS, and Safe schools will be through ePlan. A series of regional meetings will be held summer 2014 to assist districts in the process. It will be important for someone from your district to attend.

Thank you for a great first year and I look forward to seeing each of you at our Conditions for Learning Forum in May.

Best,

Pat Conner



TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT OF

EDUCATION

Office of Safe and Supportive Schools

SPRING 2014

Conditions for Learning Forum 2014

TDOE is pleased to announce the Conditions for Learning Forum 2014 to be held May 8-9, 2014 at the Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro. The forum will provide an opportunity for district staff to learn about opportunities to collaborate in creating an environment where students are both healthy and successful. The forum is built around three focus areas: 1) physical activity/nutrition/health education 2) health factors that most directly impact student learning, and 3) climate/safety/behavior.



The Forum is sponsored by the offices of Coordinated School Health, School Nutrition, and Safe and Supportive Schools in collaboration with

Healthier Tennessee, the Governor's Foundation for Health and Wellness. District teams representing these areas are encouraged to attend. Information regarding the forum, including registration instructions is available at <http://www.tn.gov/education/>

[safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml](http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml) Additional questions, please contact Lori Paisley at Lori.Paisley@tn.gov

**TENNESSEE SCHOOL SAFETY
SPECIALIST PROGRAM**



The Office of Safe & Supportive Schools is pleased to announce the newly developed Tennessee School Safety Specialist Program (TSSSP) to provide ongoing training to school districts on best practices for school safety, security, intervention/prevention, and emergency preparedness planning. Only the district SAVE Act contact can participate and must be nominated by their director of schools. Participants will be required

to make a long-term commitment to the program and to take the lead in developing district-level emergency operations plans. After the training is complete, participants will receive official recognition as a Tennessee School Safety Specialist.

Basic Training will be held June 9-11, 2014 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. Space is limited. Registration deadline is May 23, 2014. The application package to

participate in Basic Training can be found here: http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml For additional questions, please contact Pat Conner at Pat.Conner@tn.gov

Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing: Policy and Best Practice

The Bullying, Harassment, and Hazing: Policy and Best Practice Updates regional trainings will be held April 14, 2014 in Nashville, April 16, 2014 in Jackson and April 24, 2014 in Oak Ridge. This seminar will provide a comprehensive overview of state law (Tennessee Code Annotated § 49-6-4501 et al) mandates with a particular focus upon insuring that policy is reflected in effective practice. The training is particularly appropriate for district and building-level administrators responsible for investigating bullying complaints and implementing

bullying prevention best practices. Additional information and a link to the registration site can be found here http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml. For further information, please contact Kimberly Daubenspeck at Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov or 615-532-0469.

Advisory Meetings as a Best Practice to Improve School Climate

Sumner County Schools has implemented advisory meetings at Hendersonville High School every two weeks for thirty minutes. Advisory meetings allow students an opportunity to express thoughts and feelings on a variety of topics as well as build relationships with students and faculty. Research shows that activities, such as advisory meetings, can result in improved student attendance, graduation rates and school climate. It is not so much what happens in the classroom as what happens outside the door.

To learn more about advisory meetings or to share best practices to improve school climate, please contact Kimberly Daubenspeck at Kimberly.Daubenspeck@tn.gov



Tennessee School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute

The 2014 School Counselor and Administrator Leadership Institute was held February 23-25 in Chattanooga. Eight hundred education, business, community and college access professionals convened for informative concurrent sessions, engaging keynote speakers, and valuable networking opportunities. The conference theme, *Get on Board for Student Success... Appreciating the Past and Embracing the Future* reflected the innovative work, ideas and strategies

occurring across the state. The School Counseling Advisory Committee met at the conference and members attending are in the picture to the right. From left to right: Michael Bundy, Anne Troutman, Sharon Yarber, Beverly Anderson, Leigh Bagwell, Lori Paisley, Pamela Lankford, Randy McPherson. For more information about School Counselors, please contact Lori Paisley at Lori.Paisley@tn.gov.



School Counselor Spotlight



Beverly Anderson currently serves as the STEM School Counselor, Graduation Coach & Department Chair at Bearden

High School in Knoxville, TN. She is also Tennessee School Counselor Association President and Past President of Smoky Mountain Counseling Association. Her experience spans the K-12 educational span with the last 8 years specializing in at-risk and college planning

populations in the high school setting. At Bearden High School, Beverly is fortunate to work with a supportive administrator who provides vision and support for the role of school counselors. With Dr. Bartlett's leadership, Beverly and her team of professional school counselors have been diligent in refocusing efforts to transform the climate of the department where student support is its primary focus. Examples of recent benchmarks include adding support to the College & Career Center which has resulted in an over 50% increase in student scholarship dollars, developing an online registra-

tion platform, and the addition of school counselor leadership to strategic planning committees such as leadership council, data team, and weekly administrative meetings. Partnering with the PTO, Beverly worked to bolster the college workshop series and developed tools for students and parents that are utilized statewide. Beverly has been instrumental in seeking avenues to strengthen college admissions knowledge of school counselors in the district. Specifically, her promptings have helped return the greater Knoxville College & Career Fair and initiated seeking funding for a team of local counselors to participate in the TN College Access & Success 16 week college admissions professional

development series. The series allows local school counselors to join leaders across the state and will ultimately strengthen common knowledge among counselors in the district. Before practicing as a school counselor, she worked 13 years in college admissions and higher education administration at the University of Tennessee. Additionally, Beverly has been involved in special needs advocacy at local, state, regional and national levels for 20 years. At home, Beverly is surrounded by strong men: her two sons, her saint-of-a-husband, and her beloved chocolate Labrador, Hershey.

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Trainings & Special Events

Bullying Policy to Practice Trainings

April 14, 2014 – Nashville

April 16, 2014 – Jackson

April 24, 2014 - Oak Ridge

To Register: http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml



Conditions for Learning Forum 2014

May 8-9, 2014

Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro

For more information: http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml



Center for Extended Learning

Summer Symposium

June 3 - 4, 2014

For more information: contact Laura Nichols at
Laura.Nichols@tn.gov

Safety Specialist Training

June 9-11, 2014 in Nashville

For more information: http://www.tn.gov/education/safe_schls/training_calendar.shtml



Why Try? Training

June 5 -6, 2014

Embassy Suites in Murfreesboro

For more information: contact Pat Conner at
Pat.Conner@tn.gov



Safe and Supportive Schools Regional Meetings

June 9, 2014– Nashville

June 11, 2014–Oak Ridge

June 13, 2014–Jackson

For more information: contact
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