

Student Leadership Services, Inc.

Description:

Student Leadership Services, Inc. (SLS) is the umbrella organization of youth-led prevention programs, including high school Students Leading Students, middle school Students Taking A New Direction (STAND), and elementary Go BIG! SLS works to encourage young people to live free of alcohol and other drugs, increase healthy choices and promote safe decisions, while developing leadership and life skills in youth. SLS develops young leaders who are building assets in themselves and others and creating social change.

SLS works to develop healthy youth that are physically, emotionally and socially at their best. SLS assures a positive outcome among its young members by providing the following: information and education, training, care and support, high expectation of success, opportunities for meaningful participation and contribution, supportive relationships, and modeling. SLS also teaches life skills, sets and consistently enforces expectations, and increases bonds. SLS trains adult advisors and parents. SLS provides ongoing technical support to facilitate this process.

All of the programs of SLS are based on science and research (Benson; Botvin; Hawkins and Catalano; Weikart; Werner); meta-analysis reports (Benard; Hansen; NIDA; Tobler) and human development theorists (Bronfenbrenner; Erickson; Maslow; Piaget).

Special Terms and Definitions:

Inclusiveness: All middle school students are welcome in Students Taking A new Direction.

All high school students are welcome in Students Leading Students, as well as any high school youth-led prevention group affiliated with SLS; and all elementary students are included in Go BIG! This gives drug-free adult advisors and drug-free student role models an opportunity to impact all students by providing support, affirmation and asset building for the drug-free students and support, skill building and asset development in students that would benefit from these opportunities. Each youth is seen as a positive contributor. Students are welcomed and their strengths are utilized.

Strengths and Unique Qualities:

Peer leadership models are the SLS niche. Since its beginning in 1982, Student Leadership Services, Inc. has created peer groups with caring and support, positive expectations and active youth participation. SLS reaches all youth, whether drug-free or students who need support to become drug-free. Abstinence is our goal. SLS strengths include: research base; synthesis of youth development, asset building, resiliency and prevention principles implemented in effective educational practices; information; skill building; bonding and attachment; duration of program; continuum of training, curriculum and programming; peer training models; relationship building; adult support; alumni volunteers (4,000 hours per year); role models; assets of student leaders; institutionalized statewide network and positive outcomes. SLS members are passionate and caring, have a sense of purpose, future and demonstrate social competence. In the words of Jerry Moe, internationally renowned expert in family recovery and Director of Children's Programs at the Betty Ford Center, "There's magic in SLS."

Services Available:

SLS provides student and adult training in: leadership, organizational development, team building, communication, message marketing, social awareness, intervention, asset building, prevention principles, youth development, peer education, networking, service-based learning, fundraising, community collaboration, and inclusiveness. SLS offers adult training for school advisors, parents, prevention professionals, safety professionals, coalitions and youth coordinators. SLS provides educational programs, materials, direction, support and training opportunities to more than 300 student-led chapters throughout the State of Michigan and consults with other countries/states/programs implementing youth-led models. Conferences, training, speakers, program materials, consulting services are provided for a fee. Grants and scholarships are available for all services with appropriate application.

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