

School District Five News

Of Lexington & Richland Counties

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District Five Students Report Decrease in Use of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco

IRMO--In surveys completed during the 2007-2008 school year, students report significant reduction in 30-day use of:

Tobacco: -44%

Alcohol: -25%

Binge Drinking: -26%

Marijuana: -34%

Other Drugs: -32%

Keven Cohen, co-chair of the Community Roundtable explained the results as “a tribute to an amazing coalition of educators, students, parents, law enforcement and service providers to create a community with unlimited potential for our students.” The coalition hopes to sustain these results “in order to save the lives and futures of our students.”

Mark Boone, executive director of the Community Roundtable agreed. “We are proud of our students and are determined to continue the work that has helped us achieve these results and to work across the Midlands to bring similar results to the entire community.”

The Community Roundtable is a community coalition whose mission is to reduce risk behavior in students. A part of District Five for 10 years, it has been funded through a grant by the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy called the Drug Free Communities Support grant. The coalition has mentored and partnered with sister coalitions in Richland One, Richland Two, Lexington One and Lexington Two. These coalitions formed a strong alliance to produce similar results for students across the Midlands. “We’re seeing community-level change in the Midlands and our goal is to sustain not only what we’ve seen in District Five, but to see those results in all Lexington and Richland School Districts.”

The data are from comparison of SY 2007-2008 and 2003-2004 student surveys conducted by the Community Roundtable in partnership with School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties and LRADAC.

For more information on the Community Roundtable, contact Mark Boone at 803-732-8230 x 202 or mtboone@lex5.k12.sc.us

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