



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT
OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Alison Adler, Chief, Division of Safety and Learning Environment
Prevention Center in the Department of Safe Schools
3330 Forest Hill Boulevard
West Palm Beach, FL 33406-5889

June 28, 2000

Ms. Karen Perry
NOPE Task Force
3223 Commerce Place, Suite 101
West Palm Beach, Florida 33407

Dear Ms. Perry:

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools Advisory Council has approved the NOPE presentations for seventh and eighth grades and High Schools in the School District of Palm Beach County. We are deeply moved by the heartfelt and heartbreaking presentations that you offer. We appreciate the community efforts and collaborations that have made these presentations possible. We acknowledge the support of the Superintendent and other leaders in the district and our community.

Prior to any presentations being offered in the schools, we ask that guidance counselors be informed of the sensitive nature of the presentations. We ask that they attend the presentations so that they may be prepared to intervene and suggest resources if needed, including referral to the School Based Teams at their schools.

Our guidelines for presenters who are in recovery emphasize that they should be drug free for two years. We ask them to use appropriate language and to discuss the tragic effects of their drug use. They must be careful not to glamorize drug use in any way. They must promote a No Use message about alcohol and other drugs.

We would like to emphasize the principles of effectiveness for prevention programs, Prevention programming is based on the science that shows that increasing resiliency skills and protective factors in a child help reduce risk. Programs that effectively prevent drug abuse: 1) are based upon objective data about the communities served; 2) establish goals and objectives with activities to meet these objectives; 3) include activities that use research-based strategies that have been shown to reduce drug use; and 4) are evaluated periodically.

Use of the program is at the discretion of the individual school principal. Thank you for your extensive work on behalf of the children of Palm Beach County.

Sincerely,

Alison Adler, Ed. D., Chief
Safety and Learning Environment

Kim C. Williams, Assistant Director
Prevention Center in the Department of Safe Schools

AA:KW:mk