

PROJECT ABSTRACT

Newark Public Schools (NPS), the largest school district in New Jersey, is applying for the *CDC- Promoting Adolescent Health through School-Based HIV Prevention* under Component 1: School-based Surveillance and Component 2: School-Based HIV/STD Prevention. The proposed grant, **Newark Health and Wellness Project**, seeks to utilize a multi-component, multi-level effort to support youth in Newark reaching adulthood in the healthiest possible way. Newark Public Schools will implement effective sexual health education and services to at-risk middle school and high school students. Over the 5 year grant period, this project will impact approximately 34,200 students. Each year priority schools will be selected to implement the proposed programs in the project.

Newark's Health and Wellness Project seeks to achieve the following goals:

- (1) Provide high-quality, developmentally-appropriate sexual health education (SHE) to all middle grade (Grades 6-8) and high school students (grades 9-12) in the district.
- (2) Increase student access to sexual health services (SHS) by improving the student referral process and promoting services that exist.
- (3) Promoting safe and secure environments (SSE) in schools by creating Gay Straight Alliances (GSA) at all high schools (Grades 9-12) in the district.

The expected outcomes of this proposal are to increased student knowledge through sexual health education (SHE), sexual health services (SHS) and create safe and supportive environments (SSE) in schools for all students. This will provide students the tools and resources needed to make informed decisions and reduce student behaviors that contribute to HIV infection, other sexually transmitted diseases, and adolescent pregnancy and parenthood. Newark Public School will create a Health Advisory Committee with pivotal stakeholders that will provide input and expertise to ensure the outcomes become a reality.