

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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Contact Person: Lee Keller, PX 76953

ACTION BY: For Information Only

TO:

All Middle and High School Principals

FROM:

Janis Andrews, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

SUBJECT: STUDENTS WORKING AGAINST TOBACCO (SWAT) CLUBS

A collaborative effort between the Palm Beach County Health Department and Student Intervention Services will again allow the School District of Palm Beach County to operate the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) Program. Funds are available for 20 Clubs. The \$700 stipends for the SWAT Sponsors at your schools will be paid directly to them by the Florida Department of Health via MyFlorida Marketplace.

SWAT Clubs are a successful youth advocacy program from the Bureau of Tobacco Prevention Programs. With the support of the Florida Department of Education, the Bureau of Tobacco Prevention Programs has set a goal of having successful SWAT chapters in each county in the state. The SWAT Clubs will be coordinated by Janiece Davis, MPH, at the Palm Beach County Health Department. Please contact her at Janiece_Davis@doh.state.fl.us or Lee Keller for more information.

Research shows that students who use tobacco products receive lower grades than non-users. Tobacco use by students interferes with academic achievement. "Smoking is often associated with poor school performance, low aspirations, alcohol and other drug use, school absences, and anticipated dropping out" (Committee on Substance Abuse, "Tobacco's Toll: Implications for the Pediatrician" Pediatrics, 107.4 (2001) p. 794-795).

Attached you will find a Club Registration Form and a Memorandum from the Palm Beach County Health Department explaining how your school can establish or continue its SWAT Chapter. We look forward to another successful year of SWAT.

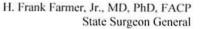
EWG:JA:JL:EVA:mk

Attachments

Approved: E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent

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October 15, 2012

Dear SWAT advisor -

Welcome Back! I hope you are enjoying your school year thus far. This year marks the 15th anniversary of the Florida Tobacco Settlement Agreement signed by the late Governor Lawton Chiles who, as you are probably well aware, was a main support of the Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) program.

Accountability for our actions in the form of documentation is crucial as it proves to the Florida Legislature that the SWAT Program is making a difference and our community and deserves continued funding. SWAT is about more than hanging posters; it's about mobilizing our youth to fight the tobacco industry by generating awareness of the deceptive marketing tactics used by the industry to gain youth smokers. This year we are really focusing on having high-quality SWAT clubs who can assist with our agency's policy efforts related to tobacco control.

This year, we are getting the SWAT Clubs back to where they belong: out in the community. We will be asking each SWAT Club to pick a policy area to work on, with the end goal of establishing a policy in their community. The Tobacco Prevention and Control Program staff at the Palm Beach County Health Department will provide hands-on assistance to the students and advisors with this process. But we need your commitment and most importantly, your dedication to this program and its purpose.

Several advisors indicated on the end-of-the-year reports the desire to have various materials and activities funded. Our county's population coupled with limited funding for the SWAT program makes this a task I simply cannot fulfill. I will provide various supplies such as markers, poster board, and SWAT manuals to each club.

Thank you for your continued support of our program – none of this would be possible without you. I look forward to the upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

Janiece Davis, MPH
Tobacco Prevention Specialist
Palm Beach County Health Department

Club Registration Form



Please complete the following if you wish to maintain/establish a SWAT Chapter at your school.

Advisor Name:	
School Name:	
School Principal:	
Email Address:	
Telephone Number:	
The advisor:	
fully understands that the SWAT Program may require this school year.	weekend activities a few times
fully understands that proper documentation must be su established by the Palm Beach County Health Department	
will contact the Program Coordinator immediately for a him/her to successfully implement the SWAT Program at	
understands that SWAT is a peer-to-peer program and to oversee and guide the youth, not do all of the work for the	
understands that payment of \$700 will be issued via My documentation from <u>all</u> registered SWAT Clubs in Palm E reviewed and audited by the Palm Beach County Health D	Beach County has been
agrees to register and complete the Statewide Online To	obacco Course.
Principal Signature:	Date:
Advisor Signature:	Date:

Please return all forms to Janiece Davis via email at <u>Janiece Davis@doh.state.fl.us</u> or via fax at 561-837-5200 by November 17, 2012.