



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

SAFETY & LEARNING ENVIRONMENT
3300 Forest Hill Boulevard, Suite C-201
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

Ph: 561.434.8813 Fax: 561.969.5815
www.palmbeachschools.org

JOSEPH M. LEE, Ed.D
Assistant Superintendent

JANIS ANDREWS, Ed.D
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

November 7, 2012
Bulletin # MHP-745-SLE/SIS

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 *J.A.*

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

Palm Beach County Schools - Rated "A" by the Florida Department of Education 2005 – 2012
"Home of Florida's first LEED Gold Certified School"
www.palmbeachschools.org

The School District of Palm Beach County is an Equal Education Opportunity Provider and Employer



Rick Scott
Governor

H. Frank Farmer, Jr., MD, PhD, FACP
State Surgeon General

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 weekend activities a few times this school year.

___ fully understands that proper documentation must be submitted by the deadlines established by the Palm Beach County Health Department.

___ will contact the Program Coordinator immediately for any assistance that will enable him/her to successfully implement the SWAT Program at our school.

___ understands that SWAT is a peer-to-peer program and that the role of Advisor is to oversee and guide the youth, not do all of the work for them.

___ understands that payment of \$700 will be issued via MyFlorida Marketplace after all documentation from **all** registered SWAT Clubs in Palm Beach County has been reviewed and audited by the Palm Beach County Health Department.

___ agrees to register and complete the Statewide Online Tobacco Course.

Principal Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Advisor Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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