



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

STUDENT INTERVENTION SERVICES
2936 Lone Pine Road
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

Ph: 561-366-6940 Fx: 561-366-6961
www.palmbeachschools.org

KIM C. WILLIAMS
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR


KEITH OSWALD
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
SAFETY, CULTURE, AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

September 15, 2011
Bulletin # MHP-690-SCLE/SI

Contact Person:
Lee Keller, PX 76953

ACTION BY:
For Information Only

TO: All Middle and High School Principals

FROM: Judith Klinek, 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 SWAT Program in the state. Last year 15 schools conducted SWAT Clubs. This year, funds are available for 20 Clubs.

Students Working Against Tobacco (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 our students interferes with their 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 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.

WFM/KO/KCW/gv

Attachments

Approved: 
William F. Malone, Superintendent



Rick Scott
Governor

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

September 6, 2011

Dear SWAT advisor –

Welcome Back! I hope you had a wonderful, rejuvenating summer. This year marks the 14th 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.

There are numerous opportunities to make an impact on your school and the community. On September 17th, Keep Palm Beach County Beautiful is sponsoring the Ocean Conservancy's International Coastal Cleanup, the largest single-day effort dedicated to cleaning and preserving our coastal environments. Last year over 50,000 cigarette butts were collected in Palm Beach County alone! I am encouraging participation in this event as it sends a message that not only are we concerned with the impact tobacco has on humans, but we also recognize its toll on the environment and marine life. Other observances such as Red Ribbon Week, the Great American Smokeout, Kick Butts Day, and Brown Ribbon Month are excellent opportunities to host and participate in events.

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 a limited quantity of T-shirts and various supplies such as markers, poster board, and SWAT manuals to each club. Please give T-shirts only to those students who are actively involved in your club and who do not already own one.

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 by Student Intervention Services 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 September 21, 2011.