

## *Analysis of Blueprint for Reform – Successful, Safe and Healthy Students Proposal*

### ISSUES

1. Making this new program totally competitive among the states and local educational agencies (LEAs) without a reservation of funds for all states/state educational agencies (SEAs) to comply with at least a minimum level of effort that includes data collection and analysis as well as other essential state level activities is highly problematical and will result in the loss of critical alcohol, tobacco and other drug (ATOD) and violence prevention infrastructure at the state level. This proposal, as structured, will result in the loss of essential ATOD data which has been the basis of understanding trends and attitudes over time. It will also result in the loss of a required emphasis on having at least some focus in every state SEA on effective strategies to prevent and address ATOD use and abuse issues.
2. The fact that the *Blueprint* states that grantees "may," not "shall," support activities to prevent and reduce substance use is also highly problematical as these issues, which in reality highly correlate with almost every metric on not only school climate issues but with "career readiness as well" will likely be ignored, and subject to denial. At a minimum all grantees must be required to address substance use and abuse issues as an explicit part of any school climate funding they receive under the newly authorized program.
3. The Administration's overall goals for the *Blueprint* are to have an accountability system that builds on college and career-ready standards. Due to the need for new hires to be able to pass pre-employment drug tests for thousands of careers and companies it is imperative that "career ready" includes drug prevention and intervention programming. With over 5% of current high school seniors reporting daily marijuana use and over 20% reporting that they have smoked marijuana in the past 30 days, the possibility of failing a drug test could impede the ability of many students from being hired by one of the more than 6,000 companies and scores of industries nationwide that require a pre-employment drug test.
4. Large competitive discretionary grants targeted to only highest need states and LEAs will not be sustainable over time, and will leave many, if not most, states and LEAs with no baseline substance use and abuse prevention data, infrastructure and capabilities. This is a major issue given that many of the states with the greatest substance abuse rates tend to be rural, not urban, and not likely to compete successfully for grants.