



Contact: Heather Crocker
Communications Director
Blaine County School District #61
208-578-5005
HCrocker@blaineschools.org

Contact: Amber Larna
Executive Director
The Drug Coalition
1050 Fox Acres Road Rm 106
Hailey, ID, 83333
Office: 208-578-5466
Mobile: 208-721-0475
alarna@blainecountyadc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 13, 2017

Drug Coalition and Blaine County School District Share Results of Youth Survey

— [HAILEY, ID] —

The Drug Coalition collaborated with the Blaine County School District (BCSD) to sponsor the Developmental Assets Profile survey for youth in Blaine County in the spring of 2016. The results of the survey are now available and both organizations will begin to use the information to inform future programs and services for youth.

The Drug Coalition Executive Director Amber Larna stated, "Our community has been collecting this data since 2002 and using it to assess how organizations support our youth and their development. It is an excellent gauge of the strengths and weaknesses of the community in regards to at-risk behavior and the resiliency of our youth."

Last spring the survey was given to students in grades 6, 8, 10 and 12 at Wood River Middle School, Wood River High School, Silver Creek High School, and Carey School, with plans to administer this survey again in two years.

Larna continued, "The results of this survey will inform the Drug Coalition's work as well as give our schools a perspective on the experiences and opinions of youth in Blaine County. Information was gained regarding student drug and alcohol use in addition to their commitment to learning, level of empowerment and other strengths."

Results of the survey indicated that there have been some improvements in the areas of drug and alcohol use among students in grades 10 and 12. The survey also indicated an increase recently in alcohol use among preteens, particularly in grade 6 last year when compared to grade 6 in other years. The survey results also indicate that youth are feeling confident and supported by their families and community. However, they also indicate a need for more positive activities for youth, whether faith-based, athletic or artistic.

The eight asset categories of the survey include: Support, Empowerment, Boundaries and Expectations, Constructive Use of Time, Commitment to Learning, Positive Values, Social Competencies, and Positive Identity. Youth who participated indicated strong responses about youth empowerment and support and weaker responses on positive identity and constructive use of time.

Both organizations plan to use the survey results with staff, students, teachers, parents, law enforcement and community leaders. Presentations to staff at Wood River High School will be included as part of the advisory program, where small groups of students are assigned to one teacher over the course of the school year.

Upcoming events will include opportunities for more discussion and information sharing. In the spring, the Drug Coalition is partnering with the Blaine County Sheriff's Department and will bring the "Tall Cop" to the Wood River Valley for a presentation with school administrators, the community and law enforcement regarding current trends in drug and alcohol use. In addition, St. Luke's, the Blaine County School District, and several other community partners recently held a series of public events with Kevin Hines called, "Love is Louder/Improving Your Brain Health." The discussions with students included practical ways for students to keep their brains healthy and build resilience.

For more information on the survey results, please go to www.blaineschools.org or www.thedrugcoalition.org

####

