START STRONG AUSTIN 2010-2011

BUILDING HEALTHY TEEN RELATIONSHIPS

Start Strong Austin is a collaboration of school and community partners working to promote safe and healthy teen relationships and prevent dating abuse. Austin is one of 11 sites in the United States participating in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Start Strong: Building Healthy Teen Relationships Initiative*.

Start Strong Austin partners are creating nurturing environments for youth and engaging parents, teachers, counselors, school nurses and youth leaders in efforts to promote healthy relationships.

Dobie, Webb and Burnet Middle Schools are implementing **Safe Dates** in 7th grade. Safe Dates includes classroom lessons, a play and a poster contest and helps teens recognize the difference between caring, supportive relationships and controlling, abusive relationships.

Date SMART, designed for Boys & Girls Clubs, is offered at Webb, Burnet, Garcia, Mendez, Bedichek, and Ann Richards Middle Schools.

Youth Leaders in middle and high schools are speaking out against bullying, cyber bullying, harassment and dating abuse using their creative voices. See their projects at www.startstrongaustin.org.

The **Changing Lives Youth Theatre Ensemble** will begin touring its new production about healthy on- and off-line relationships to 15 schools in Spring 2011.

THATS NOT COOL .COM

That's Not Cool is a campaign to help teens draw their "digital line" against abuse and harassment when using cell phones, text messaging, e-mail and social networking sites. Visit www.startstrongaustin.org to see videos created by Austin youth and a toolkit for teachers.

expect RESPECT

SafePlace's **Expect Respect** program provides support groups for students in 25 AISD schools, youth leadership training, parent workshops, and training for school personnel.
www.SafePlace.org/expectrespect

The **Parent Transition Initiative** supports parents of 5th graders to help their children develop healthy relationships and be prepared to navigate the social/emotional changes of adolescence and meet the academic requirements of middle school.

School Nurses and Healthcare Providers are screening youth for exposure to violence and involvement in abusive relationships, linking them to needed services.

Start Strong Austin is collaborating with other **coalitions**, CYMHPP, AHA, Ready-by-21, and the Community-wide Steering Group, to ensure that all youth have supportive relationships, so critical for their growth and success in school and life.

Start Strong Austin Partners: SafePlace, Austin ISD, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Austin Area, The Austin Project, Theatre Action Project, The Cipher—Austin's Hip Hop Project, Artists-in-Hospitals, Hahn Texas.

www.startstrongaustin.org

SafePlace