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SCS partners with Girls, Inc. for substance abuse program

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By ROSS FLINT - rflint@shelbynews.com

In light of the Cures Substance Abuse grant that Shelbyville Central Schools received from the Indiana Department of Education, the corporation has entered a partnership with Girls, Inc. after the school board approved it during Tuesday's meeting.

The partnership will allow SCS teachers to partner with a teacher being hired by Girls, Inc. for the 2018-19 school year.

Girls, Inc. also received a substance abuse grant, SCS Assistant Superintendent Mary Harper said, and after meeting with Amy Dillon, the two decided the two sides could partner together.

Shelbyville teachers will have the option of teaching the new drug education curriculum on their own, or they can co-teach with the Girls, Inc. teacher, who has not been hired.

That teacher will be available at the elementary school level, which will be providing 8-10 lessons in the Too Good for Drugs program, as well as the Botvin Lifeskills Program.

The lessons in the Too Good for Drugs program include Setting Reachable Goals; Making Reasonable Decisions; Bonding with Pro-Social Others; Identifying and Managing Emotions; Communicating Effectively; Managing Mistakes and Disappointments; Resisting Peer Pressure; Understand Peer Influence; and Making Healthy Choices.

The Botvin program has 15 lessons at the middle school level and 10 for the high school and focuses on personal self-management skills, general social skills and drug resistance skills.

"I think sometimes, when a visitor comes in and teaches something, they (students) just listen a little bit differently and then the teachers will be able to reinforce the lesson," Harper told the board before its unanimous approval.

The partnership comes at no cost to the corporation, which purchased its own curriculum and will be providing training for its teachers later this month.

SCS is using a train the trainer method, in which some teachers will get the initial training and will then train the rest of the staff.

“I don’t think it’s going to be too difficult for them to learn how to learn it, but it would just give the teachers the option to have someone else come in,” Harper said. “They’d stay in the room where the curriculum is being taught and have someone else teach it.”

The school board learned during its January meeting that SCS received the grant, worth \$143,447.38.