

Program Highlights

Broward County, Florida

Using Technology to Overcome Professional Development Hurdles

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is one of the largest school districts in the nation. Providing HIV prevention information to nearly 17,000 instructional staff and 13,000 support staff is a daunting task. Constraints of time, capacity, and scheduling limit the scope of traditional face-to-face workshops.

To begin to address this challenge, BCPS developed a multi-tiered, multi-media strategy for providing professional development. The strategy includes use of online training, Instructional Television (ITV) broadcasts, CD-Rom updates, and the online Broward Enterprise Electronic Portal (BEEP). Instructional staff are offered a 5-week online HIV prevention training course that highlights data, policies, procedures, curriculum, prevention strategies, testing techniques, and related facts. District staff also receive an annual HIV update training on CD-Rom, which they can review at their convenience. In addition, BCPS offers several 1-hour HIV-related broadcasts for instructional staff throughout the year. Each broadcast provides interactive learning opportunities that are enriched by supplemental materials. Starting in spring 2007, through BEEP, teachers are able to access a database of model HIV/AIDS prevention lesson plans, materials, necessary forms, and related resources.

By using the Internet, ITV, and other technology, BCPS is able to share updated, essential HIV prevention information with educational and support staff when conventional methods of staff development are not feasible. Through these various methods, BCPS provided professional development to 635 staff between March 2006 and March 2007 who may not have otherwise received the information. Overall, 1,556 BCPS staff have received professional development through these channels since their initiation in 2005.