

the good news is that Abington students have fewer risk factors and more protective factors than their matched sample group. The data also indicate that as age increases, risk factors increase and protective factors decrease. One area of concern is that Abington students reported feelings of academic failure significantly higher than the matched comparison. This is defined as the experience of perceived failure which increases the risk of problem behaviors. Abington School District students reported better protective factors than the matched sample. They scored the same or better on eight of the ten protective factors. In particular, Abington students reported significantly higher percentages on the factor "School Opportunities for Involvement." They scored slightly lower than the comparison group on

"Opportunities and Rewards for Positive Involvement in the Community" and "Religiosity."

Based on the survey findings, the following goals have been set by the school district:

1. Reduce student self-reported rates of drug and alcohol abuse.
2. Provide more opportunities for community members and parents to dialogue.
3. Reduce self-reported concerns regarding safety and violence.
4. Assist students in accessing positive opportunities in the community for jobs, volunteer work, and social activities.
5. Reduce the risk of academic failure and increase the number of successful academic experiences.

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## McKinley Elementary Turns Blue ... Twice!

Have you seen the sign that says "**McKinley Elementary School Pennsylvania Blue Ribbon School 1998-99**"? Look for a new edition soon. McKinley was just named a National Blue Ribbon School.

McKinley Elementary School was one of only 20 schools named last fall as a Pennsylvania Elementary School of Distinction by the Pennsylvania Department of Education. McKinley was then nominated for a National Blue Ribbon, becoming one of 269 schools out of 470 to be selected by the National Blue Ribbon Committee for a site visit.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools program, created in 1982, recognizes and celebrates schools that demonstrate excellence in teaching, student achievement, leadership, and parental and community involvement. Schools who apply for this program devote a great deal of time and effort to gathering and chronicling the accomplishments of teachers, students, and parents.

Not surprisingly, this honor has increased the pride and unity of spirit at McKinley. Students decorated the hallways with their thoughts on this distinction:

"The students at McKinley are the best part of us that makes us great."

**Rachel Koolpe**, grade 5

"The teachers are great." **Carla Klemmer**, grade 3

"McKinley School's great because of activities like McKINGO that involve parents and kids."

**Len Nicholas**, grade 6

"My school is special because kids learn new information." **John Timlin**, grade 3

"McKinley School is great because people work together." **Patrick Laquer**, grade 1

"McKinley has faith in all their students." **Mrs. Osborn's fifth grade class**

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