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Letters: Readers Respond

Getting results in Phila. schools

The School District of Philadelphia has a continuum of collaborative programs, including the Corporate Alliance for Drug Education (CADE), to improve the climate and safety of schools ("Leaving school: Dropping out of sight," April 23).

Success is based not on luck or random factors but on nationally validated curricula, annual professional training, and lessons-learned reinforcement. For example, trained prevention specialists help elementary-age children resist substance abuse, manage stress and anger, and resolve conflict nonviolently. And we can measure this success.

Yes, the district "does a good job of tracking students." Educators have spent years developing an understanding of the factors that keep kids in school. If children do well on these measures, they are likely to avoid the kinds of behaviors that lead to truancy, detention, suspension or expulsion.

We have workable solutions on the ground now. We just need the funding to get the job done.

Vernard Trent

Office of School Climate and Safety
School District of Philadelphia
vtrent@phila.k12.pa.us

Dianne Reed

Executive director
CADE
dreed@cadekids.org

