

G.R.E.A.T. Fact Sheet

- ❖ G.R.E.A.T. is a school-based, law enforcement officer-instructed gang and violence prevention program
- ❖ G.R.E.A.T. has four components:
 - Thirteen-lesson middle school curriculum
 - Six-lesson elementary school curriculum
 - Summer program
 - Six-session family-strengthening program for parents and children
- ❖ G.R.E.A.T. goals:
 - Reduce youth involvement in gangs, violence, and delinquent behavior
 - Develop positive relations between law enforcement, youth, and the community

History

- ❖ Started in 1991 as a pilot program in Phoenix by Phoenix Police Department and ATF
- ❖ Expanded nationwide by ATF in 1992 with help from FLETC and the Phoenix Police Department
- ❖ By 1994, was taught by 465 law enforcement agencies in 43 states
- ❖ Developed regional training centers in 1998: Phoenix (AZ), Philadelphia (PA), Portland (OR), Orlando (FL), and La Crosse (WI)
- ❖ Transferred by Congress from ATF to BJA in 2004
- ❖ Currently reaching approximately **450,000 children each year in more than 1,200 communities** nationwide
- ❖ Since inception—trained more than **12,000 officers** and taught almost **6 million children**
- ❖ Has been taught in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, Canada, and England and on U.S. military bases in Europe and Asia; currently expanding under U.S. State Department direction to gang-plagued areas in Central America

National Evaluation

- ❖ NIJ-sponsored study led by University of Missouri-St. Louis begun in 2006 and runs through 2012
- ❖ Tracking students at 33 schools in 7 strategically selected cities
- ❖ Current measures show that G.R.E.A.T. students compared with non-G.R.E.A.T. students reported:
 - More positive attitudes toward police
 - Less positive attitudes about gangs
 - More use of refusal skills
 - More resistance to peer pressure
 - **Lower rates of gang membership**
 - **Lower rates of self-reported delinquency**
- ❖ A comprehensive survey of school personnel by the national evaluation team found that:
 - 91% of teachers and administrators support having police officers in schools
 - 94% of administrators/87% of teachers are in favor of having G.R.E.A.T. in their schools
 - 100% of administrators/83% of teachers say G.R.E.A.T. addresses problems facing their students
 - 88% of administrators/80% of teachers agree that G.R.E.A.T. teaches students the skills needed to avoid gangs and violence

Funding Facts

- ❖ Federal funding for G.R.E.A.T. has dropped precipitously without explanation or clear rationale
 - FY2006 – \$25 million
 - FY2007 – \$20 million
 - FY2008 – \$18.8 million
 - FY2009 – \$10 million
 - FY2010 – \$10 million
- ❖ The **President's proposed FY2011 budget contains no funds for G.R.E.A.T.**
- ❖ After meeting infrastructure needs, funding left for G.R.E.A.T. local assistance grants has also dropped sharply, from over 200 grants annually given to local communities to implement G.R.E.A.T. for years prior to 2006, to just 85 grants in FY2008 and 28 in FY2009
- ❖ **Restoration to \$20 million is needed, as a line item to BJA for the G.R.E.A.T. Program**

Agencies Teaching G.R.E.A.T. and Children Served 2006-2009



