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Houston County Awarded Almost \$400,000 Second Step Grant



Not Just Better Students,
Better People

HOUSTON COUNTY, GA - The Houston County School System has been awarded a \$393,035 grant from Second Step, a program sponsored by the Committee for Children. Second Step supports teaching social and emotional skills to students. The grant will fund the Second Step program at Houston County's 32 elementary and middle schools. This will impact more than 21,300 children in grades Pre-K through 8.

Second Step is rooted in social-emotional learning (SEL) to help transform schools into supportive, successful learning environments uniquely equipped to help children thrive. The program integrates SEL, bullying prevention and child protection to form a cohesive foundation for a safe and supportive learning environment.

The Assistant Superintendent for Student Services, Dr. Zabrina Cannady, commented, "We recognize that students need various levels of social and emotional support to be ready to engage and learn in the classroom. We are excited about increasing our implementation of the Second Step SEL curriculum to include all students in Pre-K through eighth grade. This curriculum gives our teachers a tool to ensure that in addition to meeting academic needs, they also meet our students' social and emotional needs."

This grant will greatly expand the Second Step program which was initiated the 2018-2019 school year in all Pre-K and sixth grade classrooms. A grant in the amount of \$78,253 enabled the initial program this past academic year.

The Committee for Children backs this grant. This nonprofit celebrated its 40th anniversary by setting a goal to positively transform the social-emotional well-being of 100 million children annually by 2028.

For more information about the Second Step Grant and SEL, please contact Dr. Cannady at Zabrina.Cannady@hcbe.net or visit www.secondstep.org/.

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