



In 2001, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP (“S&C”) began the S&C/FDA Public/Private Partnership (the “S&C/FDA Project”), a public service project, with The Frederick Douglass Academy I (“FDA I”), a New York City inner-city public school. The S&C/FDA Project has developed into a unique cutting-edge private sector/public service partnership. S&C now works with several Frederick Douglass Academy (“FDA”) schools in Harlem and The Bronx on a wide range of projects. Through a firm-wide book drive, money was raised which established the Advanced Placement Book Fund for FDA I, significantly raising the number of students who could take Advanced Placement courses. S&C partners established a scholarship program for FDA I that is linked to peer mentoring.

In consultation with principals, it was determined that these schools did not have basic foundational documents. An ongoing program of the S&C/FDA Project is to draft foundational documents, such as compliance manuals, student and parent handbooks, faculty and staff handbooks and new principal’s handbooks. Additional foundational documents that were drafted include an honor code and orientation booklet; documents required to establish chapters of the National Honor Society, the National Junior Honor Society and a Student Council; and core planning documents to support both curriculum and non-curriculum programs. A formal principal’s consultancy was created at the request of principals to develop and enhance their planning, administrative and management capacities in core functional and structural areas.

In addition, S&C was asked to participate with FDA faculty to develop curriculum for Skills For Life, a critical thinking and study skills course for the 6th and 7th grades. This curriculum is now being successfully used in three FDA schools with more than 600 students. The S&C/FDA Project created the year-long Legal Seminar and Writing Workshop for 12th grade students. This seminar, in which S&C lawyers and staff guest lecture, develops critical thinking and study skills, and models professional business skills.

Other activities of the S&C/FDA Project are: a computer donation project that supports tutorials and a school newspaper; the Effectiveness Project, which supports structural and organizational projects within each school; a Career Speakers Bureau drawn from S&C employees, lawyers and alumni/ae; and a Pro Bono Speakers Bureau (in formation) which will help develop community service projects at each school.

All projects are undertaken in partnership with the administration of the FDA schools. Support and input is provided from every department and group at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP worldwide.