



Franklin Public Schools

Substance Abuse Task Force ~ 2019 End of Year Summary

(2-minute read)

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The [Franklin Substance Abuse Task Force](#) SATF engaged in meaningful work this year made possible through a strong commitment from our stakeholders and community partners which included students, parents/guardians, administration, teachers, counselors, members of our athletic program, medical professionals, community organizations, and elected officials. We remained focused on our mission of developing strategies and resources to combat substance abuse in our community.

Supports for Working with Student and Families

To enhance our Vaping Diversion program, we reviewed the current practices at FHS and explored ways to improve the FHS program, consequences, and disciplinary responses to substance abuse violations. Student feedback was also used to inform plans to 1) develop a vaping and tobacco cessation program and 2) restructure the consequences and supports for students who violate the substance abuse policy to reduce incidents of vaping.

Plans were established to provide vaping education for students during health education classes (Gr. 6-10) and for families during their middle and high school experience. Also, the Wellness 9 & 10 Newsletters (along with some school newsletters) published articles on vaping as part of parent/guardian communications. The FHS Health/PE Department and SATF will continue this goal in the 2019-2020 school year.

School-Based Prevention Strategies

The task force understands the value in developing consistent programming across the middle and high school levels so that students will enter high school with a shared experience of substance abuse education. This work will become the starting point of foundational knowledge that all freshman will have when entering high school. This work will begin during the [High School Experience](#) (HSE) will promote healthy lifestyles, teamwork, their digital footprint, as well as the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) [A World of Difference™](#) curriculum, which encourages students to feel comfortable with their own identity and to "Be a leader and be yourself." Freshman class meetings will also include a common message connect to middle school presentations and HSE. There are also natural parallels to the [Drug Abuse Resistance Education](#) (DARE) program and the Grade 5 elementary health curriculum. Our goal is to enlist our health teachers and School Resources Officers (SRO) to partner in identifying the curricular connections.

Community-Based Prevention Strategies

We are excited to report that The Ride Home resource created to educate parents on how to engage in meaningful conversations with their children about responsible decision-making is near completion. The task force will continue its work to finalize The Ride Home program, which will include conversation starters and techniques for parents/guardians.

We also plan to expand the [Hidden in Plain Sight](#) program, which helps parents identify hidden locations for substances within the home. The program was on display at FHS during curriculum night last year and run by [SAFE Coalition](#). It received positive feedback from those who attended. The program will include other open houses/curriculum nights with a focus on vaping during the 2019-2020 school year.

Thank you to all members of the SATF for their participation in this critical work. We will continue to work towards current goals during the 2019-2020 school year.