

As trusted adults in school communities, invested in the wellbeing of students, faculty can do much to strengthen and protect student health.

Consider how much time you spend at faculty meetings talking about students who are in trouble with alcohol and other drugs. Now consider *how much time you spend creating ways to support students who contribute to the health of your school community by choosing not to use.*

It is more important than ever that schools develop comprehensive prevention and intervention strategies, not only to deal with substance abuse, but to *support students who opt for drug-free lifestyles.* The vast majority of students are not abusing alcohol or other drugs. Students who choose not to drink have the right to attend school without their healthy attitudes and behavior being compromised by the drinking and other-drug-taking behavior of a minority their peers.

You support and encourage the prevention of student alcohol and other drug use when you:

- Encourage adults who don't use to reveal and celebrate their choice.
- Implement comprehensive drug prevention and education programs.
- Develop non-use groups for students.
- Organize student clubs, activities and events that revolve around natural highs.
- Address some of the contributory factors to alcohol and other drug use (e.g., anxiety, isolation, depression, poor social and refusal skills) through health services, counseling, and course offerings.
- Consider non-use contracts for athletes and others who represent the school.
- Have coaches and advisors talk to athletes and student leaders about their influence as role models to younger students and their peers.
- Focus on alcohol and other drug use as a health issue.
- Intervene informally on students unhealthy attitudes about substances.
- Provide a means by which students in trouble who take the initiative to help themselves and/or their friends can do so without incurring disciplinary penalties.
- Train teachers, advisors, and dorm prefects to reinforce non-use as a healthy norm, and to recognize the subtle ways in which drinking is condoned or winked at.
- Create a structure by which all students can find adult mentors and advisors with whom they can develop close and continuing relationships.
- Maintain an active student assistance group that actually intervenes when it suspects or identifies a problem.
- Reinforce non-use by adhering to penalties and disciplinary measures laid out for infractions.
- Make sure that all candidates for admission understand and agree to abide by the school's alcohol and other drug policies.
- Verbalize your school's respect and gratitude for students who choose not to use.