



Community Services Board

Substance Abuse Prevention Program

Information for parents

Parents want their children to be successful and happy, but there are many obstacles they encounter during adolescence. Sometimes these obstacles include substance use.



Realizing your adolescent may be using substances can be overwhelming and leave you feeling worried, guilty or isolated. You are not alone. Many other parents have found themselves in a similar position. Dealing with a child's substance use, whether it is experimental or a more developed problem, is a reality for many parents.

As signs start to build, reach out for help. The challenges you are facing can be more manageable with support. Substance use can be a significant issue that can impact your child's health, both physically and mentally. If you feel or think there is a problem, don't delay in seeking help.

Here are some warning signs that your child may be using drugs:

- Behavioral and/or mood changes
- Decline in grades
- Items or money go missing
- Memory problems
- Isolation or abandoning social activities
- Change in peer group
- Glazed expression
- Slurred speech
- Eyes are red, heavy-lidded and may have constricted pupils
- Possession of drugs or drug paraphernalia

If you have just discovered or have reason to believe your child is using alcohol or drugs, prevention and intervention can help.



The **Substance Abuse Prevention program**, a partnership between the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board and Fairfax County Public Schools, works to provide substance use

prevention, assessments and treatment to adolescents who are at risk of or who are actively using substances.

Specialized staff at seven high schools ensure youth have access to services to reduce substance use and address underlying issues that may lead to the decision to use. The program is confidential and staff are well versed in substance use and recovery.

We are here to walk you through this process. For a listing of schools currently participating in the SAP program, visit bit.ly/sap-program, or call the Merrifield Center at 703-559-3000 and ask for the school Substance Abuse Prevention program.

Teen substance use can be overcome. Early detection and treatment are key to recovery – support is a phone call away.

Merrifield Center

8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive
Fairfax, Virginia 22031
703-559-3000

CSB Emergency Services
24 hours / 7 days per week
703-573-5679, TTY 711

Call 911 in a life-threatening emergency.



Call 703-324-7000 to request this information in an alternate format.

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