

# Substance Misuse Prevention for Stronger Schools

## Press Releases

### PRESS RELEASE #1 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Name, Title]  
[Email] | [Phone]  
[Date]

### Prevention for Stronger Schools: Why In-School Prevention Matters Now More Than Ever

<<Insert Town Name>>, VT — As communities across Vermont work to support the health and well-being of their youth through the prevention of substance misuse, [insert organization] is urging renewed focus on a powerful tool already embedded in our communities: our schools. Prevention for Stronger Schools is highlighting the importance of school-based prevention as a cornerstone of lifelong health and resilience.

“Substance misuse doesn’t begin in adulthood—it starts with risk factors we can identify and address early,” said [Spokesperson Name], [Title]. “That’s why school prevention programs are so critical at every age.”

Prevention works best when it’s consistent, developmentally appropriate, and built into students’ everyday lives. From elementary school through graduation, these programs build essential life skills—decision-making, communication, and healthy coping strategies—that help students navigate challenges and avoid substance misuse now and in their adult lives.

Evidence-based programs, such as the CDC’s Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) framework and Project Towards No Drug Abuse, have shown significant results:

- Reduced alcohol and drug use by up to 30–50%
- Improved academic performance and attendance
- Stronger mental health outcomes and peer connections

The strategies and resources that are a part of Prevention for Stronger Schools are available to help educators, parents, and local advocates engage with schools and decision-makers to ensure prevention is a visible, supported part of every child’s education from elementary through graduation.

“Prevention isn’t an extra—it’s essential,” said [Name]. “If we want stronger communities, we start by building stronger schools.”

## Substance Misuse Prevention for Stronger Schools

### Press Releases

#### PRESS RELEASE #2 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: [Name, Title]  
[Email] | [Phone]  
[Date]

### Prevention for Stronger Schools: Success and the Power of Early Action

<<Insert Town Name>>,, VT — [insert organization] is spotlighting the positive impact school-based prevention is having on our schools as part of the Prevention for Stronger Schools initiative. Across the state, Vermont schools are proving that prevention works—and that it belongs at the heart of every child’s education.

“Vermont has a long-standing commitment to prevention, and we’re seeing results,” said [Spokesperson Name], [Title]. “From middle schools piloting peer-led mental health campaigns, to high schools reducing truancy through strengthened student support systems, these are real wins for our communities.”

Among the successes highlighted:

- Evidence-based programs like Project: Alert have been shown to reduce the misuse of alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine.
- Districts have shown a drop in truancy and a rise in students voluntarily seeking help, reflecting a growing culture of connection and trust.
- Student leaders are stepping up—testifying at national conferences, leading town meetings, and creating campaigns like Hope Happens Here that link middle and high school students in support networks.

“The earlier we start building healthy habits and support systems for kids, the stronger and more resilient they become,” said [Spokesperson Name], [Title]. “Schools play a vital role in that foundation, and this initiative helps ensure prevention is seen not as a supplement, but as a core part of student success.”

Prevention for Stronger Schools includes a collection of strategies and resources designed to help school leaders, families, and community members advocate for strong school prevention effectively in an attempt to bring these successes to every school in Vermont. “Prevention isn’t about going without—it’s about moving forward,” said [Spokesperson Name]. “These efforts aren’t just reducing risk—they’re building confidence, connection, and opportunity for Vermont’s students. Stronger students who, in turn, help create stronger schools across Vermont.”

## Substance Misuse Prevention for Stronger Schools

### Press Releases

To learn more or access the full resource collection, visit [\[link\]](#).

#### **PRESS RELEASE #3 (Non Govt Entity)**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: [\[Name, Title\]](#)

[\[Email\]](#) | [\[Phone\]](#)

[\[Date\]](#)

#### **Prevention for Stronger Schools: Success and the Power of Early Action**

[<<Insert Town Name>>](#), VT — Schools across Vermont are showing that early prevention efforts can make a real difference in student health, connection, and success. Through the Prevention for Stronger Schools initiative, communities are seeing firsthand how prevention programs strengthen both students and school environments.

Across the state, evidence-based programs like Project: Alert have helped reduce the misuse of alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine among students. Districts that have implemented coordinated prevention and student support services have reported a drop in truancy and an increase in students voluntarily seeking help—signs of a growing culture of trust and connection in schools.

Student leadership is playing a major role as well. Vermont students are stepping up by testifying at national conferences, leading town meetings, and creating initiatives like Hope Happens Here, which builds peer support networks linking middle and high school students.

The Prevention for Stronger Schools site offers resources, stories, and strategies to help school leaders, families, and community advocates make prevention a stronger part of every student's education. By building healthy habits and strong support systems early, Vermont schools are helping students grow more resilient—and laying the foundation for stronger communities statewide.

To learn more or access the full collection of resources, visit [\[link\]](#)

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