



Dudley-Charlton Regional School District
Charlton Middle School
 2 Oxford Road
 Charlton, Massachusetts 01507

Telephone 508-248-1423

Fax 508-248-1418

Dean W. Packard

Peter J. Olson
Assistant Principal

Principal

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to inform you of our initiative in our schools relating to the use of alcohol, marijuana and other substances. Health survey data consistently demonstrates that in a small number of middle school students have used these substances and by the end of high school, many more students report substance use. As trusted providers in the school, we are uniquely positioned to discuss substance use among young people, identify early use, its related risks and intervene when appropriate.

In order to help prevent students from using substances Charlton Middle School will be incorporating an interview-based screening for 7th grade students into our annual state mandated universal health screening process. The Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) focuses on substance use prevention, early detection, risk assessment, brief intervention and a referral process that can be utilized in the school setting. It is approved by Massachusetts Department of Public Health and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Confidential verbal screening sessions will be approximately 5-10 minutes and conducted in private, one-on-one sessions using the CRAFFT II Screening tool. All students will receive some education information during the SBIRT screening. Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener. The screener will provide a brief negotiated intervention to students who report using substances or are at risk for future substance use. With consent, referrals may be made for high risk students to the school mental health professionals for further assessment and “next steps.”

M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 97(c) “any statement...made by a pupil during a verbal substance use disorder screening shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed by a person receiving the statement...except in cases of immediate medical emergency.” In this case, the screener and student will determine next steps together. No written results with identifying information are kept in any school record.

As with any school screening, you have the right to opt your child out of this screening. Please contact Mrs. Harrington, School Nurse via email CHarrington@dcrsd.org by **Wednesday February 5, 2020**. Additionally, students may opt out at the time of the screening. **Screenings will be conducted on February 6th and February 7th.** Please see reverse side for the CRAFT II tool being used to conduct screenings.

Sincerely,

Christine Harrington, Charlton Middle School Nurse

 _____ I would like to opt my child out of SBIRT screening
 Student Name: _____ Parent signature _____ Date: _____



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