

# Substance Abuse Prevention Education



Opioid drug abuse has become a crisis in Ohio and across the nation. Studies show that 1 in 5 teens abuses prescription medications not prescribed to them, and drug overdoses now surpass car crashes as the leading cause of accidental deaths in the U.S. In Ohio, the use of opiate pills and heroin is on the rise, with state troopers seizing 34,994 opiate pills and nearly 41 pounds of heroin in 2015.

Providing opportunities for education around alcohol and drug abuse prevention and embedding the information into the school day is one way to strengthen efforts on this issue that affects nearly every Ohioan family and a means to prevent the issue before it starts. Because teachers can be powerful influences in their students' lives, they have a unique opportunity to guide students toward making healthy, drug-free lifestyle choices as well as building protective factors and resiliency skills that will help the student throughout their life.

## Overview / Awareness of HB 367

Governor Kasich's Cabinet Opiate Action Team recognizes the great capacity of school districts, classroom and health educators through House Bill 367- Opioid Abuse Prevention. In summary, the bill requires health education to include instruction in prescription opioid abuse prevention, with an emphasis on the prescription drug epidemic and the connection between prescription opioid abuse and addiction to other drugs, such as heroin. Although the bill is aimed at health educators, it is beneficial for all educators to be aware of the bill and to consider future collaborations with the other community sectors (ie: law enforcement, public health, coalitions, etc.) and internal partnerships.

## Resources to assist in curriculum building for all educators

### The Ohio Department of Education

A website to map out resources and curriculum builders specific to grade levels

<http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Ohios-Learning-Standards/Health-Education/Opioid-Abuse-Prevention>



### Start Talking!

A platform for educators, parents, guardians, and community leaders to guide conversations with Ohio's youth about the importance of living healthy, drug-free lives

<http://starttalking.ohio.gov/AboutUs.aspx>



### Generation Rx

The mission of Generation Rx is to educate people about the potential dangers of misusing prescription medications. The resource includes an online classroom and informative videos for all ages

<http://www.generationrx.org/learn/understand-the-issue/>

