

Opioids and Other Drugs School Action Plan

School action plans have been developed to support educators and school administrators with increased awareness and knowledge exchange of relevant and credible resources pertaining to various substances of public health concern. Action plans are primarily targeted at students in grade 7-12 however, school staff can use the suggested activities as they deem appropriate and tailor depending on the target audience.

Curriculum, teaching and learning

Ophea – [Education Resources](#) to provide educators and administrators access to evidence- informed information on substance use (*please search 'substance use')

CCSA - [Understanding Substance Use: Educators Guide](#) and the accompanying five [video modules](#) are designed for education professionals:

- Understanding Substance Use
- Understanding Stigma
- Understanding Cannabis Vaping
- Understanding Alcohol
- Understanding Impaired Driving

[School Mental Health Ontario](#) - resources for educators that provide insights and recommendations regarding having conversations about substance use with students.

Health Canada – [Public education resources](#) to help guide discussions about drugs

Health Canada – [Naloxone: Save a Life](#)

[Promoting Mentally Healthy Schools and Resilience: Strategies for Educators](#)

This free module will equip educators with strategies to support mentally healthy schools and promote resilience among students. (*select 'free trial & specialized training' when registering)

School and Classroom Leadership

Provide opportunities for youth to be involved in creating, assisting, or leading opioid/other drug education where appropriate (e.g. develop posters, create a school display).

Have students participate in various interactive [online activities](#) from Health Canada's *Know More Opioids* Awareness Program such as [Spot the Fentanyl](#) or [Signs of an opioid overdose](#) activities.

Borrow the health unit's "*The Real Wheel*" and have a group of students facilitate the activity for the class.

Book a free [in-class experience](#) through Health Canada's *Know More Opioids* Awareness Program.

Student Engagement

Listen and empower students to discuss opioids and other drugs and engage them in developing education and prevention activities for their class or the school (develop or work with an existing student-led committee to plan ideas).

Have students research local community supports and services (e.g. Connex Ontario, CMHA, Kids Help Phone, Youth-VAST) and plan creative approaches for sharing this information with the class and/or school.

Help students build skills to recognize substance-related influences and develop healthy decision-making & refusal skills (e.g. have students develop & role play various scenarios).

Social and Physical Environments

Raise awareness about the risks of opioid use and community supports for youth and families, through [newsletter inserts](#), displays, bulletin boards, school website, etc.

Raise staff awareness and increase supervision of areas that may present a higher risk for substance use.

Promote positive mental health; create opportunities during the school day to support students and staff to develop resilience and cope with stress in healthy ways.

Home, School and Community Partnerships

Partner with the Health Unit or other community partners to offer an opioid education session for parents/parent council.

Raise awareness of the Parent Support Hub - A safe virtual space for parents to get guidance and support): <https://www.drugfreekidscanada.org/supporthub/>.

Have various hard-copy resources available at school events

- SMDHU - [Counterfeit Pills – What You Need to Know](#)
- CAMH/School Mental Health Ontario - [Prescription opioids, including fentanyl: What parents and caregivers need to know](#)
- Health Canada [Opioids: What Are They?](#) Information Sheet
- Drug Free Kids Canada - [Let's Talk Opioids, including Fentanyl – A parent's guide to understanding opioid use by youth](#)
- Drug Free Kids – [Substances at a Glance](#)