



MASHPEE MIDDLE-HIGH SCHOOL

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Dear Families,

We will be conducting an evidence-based screening at the Mashpee Middle/High School in early April **on all grade 7 and grade 9 students**. The screening, required by MA Law (Chapter 52, Acts of 2016), **An Act Relative to Substance Use, Treatment, Education and Prevention** is known as SBIRT, an acronym for Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment. It is a public health model aimed at preventing the use of alcohol, marijuana and/or other substances. Our primary goal is to let students know that their school nurse and counseling staff are available daily to reinforce healthy decision making behaviors and to assist them in obtaining additional support for any substance use or related issue if needed.

The Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) process is part of the annual state mandated screenings. The school nurse and school counselors do the screening and these screenings will be conducted in a confidential, one-on-one session with each student. We will be utilizing a substance and behavioral health screening tool, called the CRAFFT 2.1+N, recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics and widely used with adolescents. It consists of questions developed to screen adolescents for high-risk alcohol, nicotine and drug use disorders. It is a short, effective screening tool meant to assess whether a longer conversation about the context of use, frequency and other risks and consequences of alcohol, nicotine and drug use is warranted. The tool is available to view on the Mashpee District's website.

Students who are not using substances will have their healthy choices reinforced by the screener. The screener will provide brief feedback to any student who reports using a substance or who is at risk for future substance use. We will refer students to our counseling staff for further evaluation with student permission if needed. All students will be provided helpful, educational information regarding substance use.

This program focuses on harm prevention and does not generate any disciplinary action. The results of the screening are not included in your student's school file or school health record. Parents and/or students have the right to opt out of this screening process. **We request that you send a written note or email to the school nurse no later than April 1, 2022 if you wish to opt out.** If you have any further questions you may contact Joyce O'Connor, MMHS School Nurse at 508-539-6712 or email her at joconnor@mpspk12.org.

Mashpee--A Connected Community

All students, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, or homelessness, have equal access to the general education program and to the full range of co-curricular/enrichment/sports programs offered by the Mashpee Public Schools.