San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools

Dangers Of Synthetic Drugs

The illicit use and abuse of synthetic drugs represents an emerging and ongoing public health threat in California. The fentanyl crisis, specifically, has impacted communities across the state, leading to a sharp increase in fentanyl poisonings and deaths in recent years.

This notice aims to address the crisis with a preventative approach ensuring students and families are educated on the deadly consequences of recreational drug use.

A synthetic drug is a drug with properties and effects similar to a known hallucinogen or narcotic but having a slightly altered chemical structure, especially such a drug created in order to evade existing restrictions against illegal substances.

Synthetic drugs include, but are not limited to, synthetic cannabinoids (“synthetic marijuana,” “spice,” “k2”), methamphetamines, bath salts, and fentanyl.

The California Department of Public Health (“CDPH”) has warned about the extreme danger of drugs laced with fentanyl. Illicit fentanyl can be added to other drugs to make them cheaper, more powerful, and more addictive. Illicit fentanyl has been found in many drugs, including heroin, methamphetamine, counterfeit pills, and cocaine. Fentanyl mixed with any drug increases the likelihood of a fatal overdose. Furthermore, it is nearly impossible to tell if drugs have been laced with fentanyl without additional testing, because fentanyl cannot be seen, smelled, or tasted when used as a lacing agent.

Please click here for resources:

Parent Ed Flyer. Fentanyl. EnglishandSpanish.pdf

Safety Bulletin Fentanyl and Opioid Crisis Infographic.pdf

Additional information regarding fentanyl from the CDPH’s *Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch* (SABP) can be found here.