



Greater Lowell Technical High School

School Counseling Department

250 Pawtucket BLVD., Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As your student's caregiver, we know that you desire the best resources. Health survey data collected by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health consistently demonstrates a small number of students try alcohol, marijuana and other drugs by the end of high school and many students report substance use.

In order to help prevent students from starting to use substances, or intervene with early use, GLTHS counseling staff will be providing interview based screening for 10th grade students about the use of alcohol, marijuana, and other drugs. This screening utilizes the most commonly used substance use screening tool for adolescents in Massachusetts, the CRAFFT+N. Student screening sessions will be brief, (approximately 5 minutes) and conducted confidentially, in private, one-on-one sessions conducted by school counselors. 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 substances, or is at risk for future substance use. If needed the student will be referred to the appropriate school resource for further evaluation. Results of the screening will not be included in your student's school records, nor will it be shared with any staff other than the Screening, Brief Intervention Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Team. The SBIRT Team is composed of the School Counseling department. All students will receive some educational material and a resource list at the time of the screening.

As with any school screening you have the right to opt your child out of this screening. Please contact Tracy K. Encarnacao, Director of School Counseling via email tencarnacao@gltech.org or return this form to the School Counseling Office. Additionally, screening is voluntary and students may choose not to answer any or all of the screening questions. Screening will be conducted during the weeks of May 15th through June 2nd.

One way to prevent youth substance use is to talk with your child about your family's thoughts and expectations regarding substance abuse. Research shows that parents/guardians are the #1 reason young people decide not to drink alcohol. Together, schools and parents CAN make a difference for the youth in the Greater Lowell community.

Sincerely,

Tracy Encarnacao

Director of Guidance and Counseling Services



Greater Lowell Technical High School

School Counseling Department

250 Pawtucket BLVD., Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Please complete this section of the form only if you do not want your child to participate in the survey.

Student's

name: _____

I have read this form and know what the survey is about.

{ } No, my child may not take part in the survey.

Parent's signature:

Phone number:
