



## THE NEED FOR SUPPORT

The National Institute on Drug Abuse & the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration report that students start experimenting with substances in middle school and the number of students using substances increases through 12th grade.

Our team helps students and families navigate needs and interventions to encourage the reduction/elimination of the use of substances.



“The right decisions are always the hardest to make. But they must be made in order to live the life you deserve!”

~ Trent Shelton

## PROGRAM CONTACT INFORMATION

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# ALCOHOL & OTHER DRUG ALTERNATIVE PROGRAM FOR TEENS



ADAPT

Charleston County School District  
Student Support Services

There is a common misconception that addiction is a choice and that people can stop using drugs when they want to. Addiction is complex. People develop addictions because of many reasons, including:

- Traumatic & stressful life events
- Environmental factors
- Mental well-being (emotions, thoughts, feelings, and mental illness)
- Genetics and biology

Grades 7 through 10 are a key developmental period for the initiation of illicit drug use. Data shows that most 12 graders who have ever used a substance first used in 7th-10th grade. Below are some additional data points to help us better understand what students may be facing.

#### Alcohol

- Alcohol is the drug most likely to have been initiated by the end of 6th grade.

#### Marijuana/Cannabis

- National estimates 1.9 million youth aged 12 to 17 used marijuana in the past month

#### Vaping Cannabis

- 6% of eighth graders reported vaping cannabis within the past year

#### Electronic Cigarettes/Vaping

- Over 2.5 million middle and high school students use e-cigarettes

**Email us for more information!**

[studentsupports@charleston.k12.sc.us](mailto:studentsupports@charleston.k12.sc.us)

## ADAPT GOALS

- Reduce the number of out-of-school suspensions related to substance use
- Prevent or delay the onset of substance use
- Enhance students' problem-solving skills
- Increase students' knowledge of the negative consequences of substance use
- Re-establish School Connectedness and relationships with family and peer groups
- Reinforce non-use norms and attitudes among peers



The program is utilized for educational support only and not as a licensed and /or accredited agency. It does not take the place of an accredited substance use program or treatment.

- Confidentiality will be maintained unless a student is engaging in behaviors that are harmful to themselves or others
- Any known information about distribution or other criminal behavior will be reported to Administration

## WHAT IS ADAPT?

The Alcohol and Other Drug Alternative Program for Teens (ADAPT) is a FREE service offered through the Charleston County School District.

The program provides support and resources for students, families, and community members to address the negative effects of substance use. ADAPT provides prevention and intervention through the use of evidenced based services in the following areas:

*Information dissemination*

*Prevention and education*

*Environmental strategies*

*Problem Identification*

*Referral to Treatment (collaboration with MUSC, Charleston Center, & WakeUp Carolina)*

