

Screening, Brief Interview and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Program

Athol-Royalston Regional School District cares about our students. In light of the Opioid/Addiction Crisis/Epidemic we wanted to inform you of the screening program for grade 7 and grade 10 students, related to the use of alcohol, marijuana and other substances. Our goal is to inform students and their families that we are available to reinforce healthy decisions and to assist those who need direction in obtaining support.

The Screening, Brief Interview and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program screening process will be integrated with the other state mandated screenings (hearing, vision, height, weight). As always, this screening will be conducted confidentially with the school nurse privately in one-on-one sessions. The screening consists of a few questions and a brief discussion. If needed, students will be referred to our counseling staff for further evaluation. The program focuses on harm prevention and does not generate disciplinary action. Results of the screening will not be included in your child's school record and will be kept confidential.

As with any school screening, you have the right to opt your child out of this screening, and your child has the right to refuse any screening. Should you not want your child to be screened, please notify your school nurse in writing.

Some helpful websites are "7 Ways to Protect Your Teen from Alcohol and Other Drugs", <http://files.hria.org/files/SA1011.pdf>; Underage Drinking Prevention Parent Resources from SAMHSA <http://www.samhsa.gov/underage-drinking/parent-resources>; Marijuana Talk Kit <http://www.drugfree.org/MJTalkKit/>.

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