

Top Successes in Engaging Schools

Our coalition is moving to the School District as our new fiscal organization. I, as the director will be an employee of the school district as of October 1. Already seeing increased engagement with administration and faculty

Utilizing school administrators and other staff members (as well as youth if possible) as part of the '12 sectors' involved in coalition collaboration and building.

Hidden in Plain Sight demos to parents

Offering (FREE) informative and educational materials/resources focused on substance use prevention that can be given to staff, students, or placed around the schools.

"Petting zoo" of confiscated vapes to show parents/teachers what they look/feel like

We held county wide roundtables with school administrators to ask them what challenges they are facing and how we can help and support them.

Are coalition is working on presentation for parents/guardians to learn about vapes and what they look

Collaborations between local behavioral health agency & Juvenile Justice, along with the school District

I work with another program called DCFS where they go into the schools to educate the students who are caught vaping. They are now focusing on the 5th grade this year as we had a few students vaping on the bus this last school year.

Get a school board member on board

We use the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) data that the schools participate in to show them the trends and issues we see

Coalition is hosting vape presentation to parents in the community- coming in October!

Top Challenge in Engaging Schools and How You Overcame It

Getting the "right people" at the table and making policy decisions that are evidence based. I see it improving though.

Youth engagement- without emphasis on suspension alternative class (INDEPTH). Working to change school policy within the district to align policy with prevention AND intervention practices.

Limited time in classrooms since Covid-19. Teachers/educators needing full days to make up for lost time with students during the pandemic. Also other mental health issues that have increased since Covid closures.

Competing priorities- school staff seem overwhelmed by challenges and multiple roles. Solution: Make vaping easy to address- provide simple materials and resources that educators can use to learn about the issue (health impacts, reasons students vape, connections to mental health, etc.) and know where to refer students who are looking for support to quit (NCI's smoke free teen.gov, etc.).

Schools getting more punitive (OSS for first offense with nicotine vape) as we tried to emphasize education and opportunities to teach students. We are keeping communication open and sharing model policies hoping to encourage a change.

SL: Lack of understanding on the importance of prevention vs. intervention. More emphasis is placed on intervention because it seems more tangible.

SL: To overcome we are focusing on collecting data and increasing understanding of how prevention works. Trying to create and highlight small successes to generate interest in larger initiatives.

The DCFS has had a great relationship with our school district which has been helpful.

Coalition is working with an in-school champion; a Youth Action Team member educated students with vaping offenses.

Getting our superintendent and middle school principal on our coalition's executive board!

Citation education through SROS

Youth led Peer2Peer Education modules delivered by high school youth to middle school youth and middle school youth to Grade 6 and 5 youth; includes data, perceptions, mindfulness, highly interactive; created by youth for youth, youth teams are trained to present and facilitate with high interactions

Partnership with the WA Poison Control Center and their policy and education support systems

Collaboration with school personnel, including coaches, counselors, Student Assistance Professionals, health education teachers and advisory staff

Student-led study with PE class in High School, did pre and post vaping questionnaire, and monthly did a "lung assessment with peak flow meter" (partnered with local healthcare provider) It offered conversations around lung health and some youth reported quitting vaping by the end of this student-led study:) Most youth had not done a peak flow meter before unless they had asthma or other respiratory issue. So having more peak flow meter assessments in yearly child wellness check could keep the lines of communication and education flowing with youth and providers early on. Lung health is important.

In our community people are always saying there is nothing for youth to do. We started a youth art class and had youth create drawings around vape prevention. Created posters and schools were open to hanging them up.

When we tried to get state to fund training there was push back on whether or not "Catch My Breathe" was evidence based and proven. I just had to find the free training and do it myself and now I am having to get staff to do the free self-paced training. Also when we have reached out to schools to do programs they have said it was not priority during COVID and also time restraints during the school day because of requirements. We are having to do the program in After School programs.

Change in school and prevention leadership personnel

OSS is an issue because it allows students to vape freely at home. Our Coalition communicated these concerns to the school system and can now report successfully providing vaping education in 1 middle school in our follow up with them. We will continue to seek out opportunities to expand this model in more schools in our district.

Vape Educate is being piloted in several school districts in our area. When a student is caught vaping tobacco on school property, an individual is assigned the \$25 program to complete in ISS. As soon as they finish the 4-hour program, they are released back to class. Problem: Due to the length of time it takes to complete the program, students are not doing the assignment. Solution: I gave this feedback to Vape Educate. Their Response: They are currently in the process of paring down the program to make it shorter. NO date is set for the release date, but it is on its way!

We are working on a new Vaping curriculum. We currently have TMEC (Tobacco, Marijuana Education Course through CLEARalliance.org) that schools use as an alternative to suspension (in school suspension). The schools really like this and we are working on directing it more to "vaping" and making it a shorter course and updating data.