



Arlene González-Sánchez, M.S., L.M.S.W  
Commissioner, OASAS

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner, NYSED

June 13, 2019

Dear Colleague:

Addiction can impact any one or any family. Substance use disorder has had serious consequences - cutting young lives short, breaking hearts, and ending hopes and dreams across the country and in every corner of our state. In the United States between 1999 and 2016, more than 630,000 people died from a drug overdose. (Annual Surveillance Report of Drug-Related Risks and Outcomes United States, 2018). In New York State (NYS) in just 2017, there were more than 3,900 overdose deaths reported.

When addiction impacts someone, the entire family needs support and help. There are many questions, concerns, and fears and having someone identified locally to assist with questions is helpful. We want to ensure everyone is informed.

In March, Chapter 323 of the Laws of 2018 took effect, amending the [Education Law by adding a new §3038](#), that requires the superintendent of each school district, in consultation with the local Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) District Superintendent where applicable, to designate an employee of the school district or BOCES to provide materials and resources upon request to any student, parent or staff regarding where and how to find available substance use related services.

The NYS Education Department (NYSED) and the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) have worked collaboratively to provide you with resources to assist individuals (any student, teacher, parent, or community member) looking for help and support and answers to questions related to substance use. We are pleased to release the [Guidance for Providing Educational Resources to Address Substance Use](#). The guidance provides information on the role of the designee, information for administrators and boards of education regarding substance use policies in schools, partnering with BOCES and community-based organizations, along with a wealth of reliable resources on substance use issues.

The following highlights information contained in [the guidance that is also currently available on the OASAS website](#). [These resources](#) enable schools and identified designees to provide essential resources in accordance with Education Law §3038. This new webpage is broken into the following categories with materials for printing, download, and streaming:

- [Parents and Community](#): Materials regarding illicit substances, teen vaping and more. Informational awareness is addressed through [brochures](#) to understand prevention, experimenting, intervention, recovery, and safeguarding medications.



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- [Talk2Prevent](#) resources offer parents strategies for addressing substance use prevention including tips on [conversation starters](#) and [making a plan](#) to help teens and young adults get out of a difficult situation.
- [Educators and Administrators](#): Updated documents to address substance use, including a registry of Evidence-Based Prevention Programs, related memos from NYSED and OASAS, and other resources to provide the [required information in Health Education \(e.g., functional knowledge\) related to Heroin & Opioid](#) use prevention and instructional resources.
- [School Nurse and Pupil Personnel Services \(PPS\) Professionals](#): Materials regarding screening, brief intervention, and possible referral to treatment (SBIRT), overdose prevention using Naloxone, and a variety of related resources.
- [Kitchen Table Toolkit](#): Video and guidance documents to use with community forums and in a classroom setting. A powerpoint is included to assist with discussion.
- [Warning Signs](#): Resources on recognizing the warning signs of addiction, signs of an overdose, and how to reverse an overdose.
- [Introduction to Prevention](#): Resources regarding [evidence-based practices](#) and statewide prevention resources; finding a local [OASAS prevention provider](#) that can assist schools with resources related to substance use prevention, as well as [community coalitions](#).
- [Introduction to Treatment](#): Resources regarding different levels of care by viewing brief videos about treatment, recovery and support; find an [OASAS treatment provider in your area](#) that can assist as needed, as well as [Regional Services that are available in your area](#).
- [Youth-Centered Services](#): Provides contact information regarding regional resources providing support to young people and families.
- [Consumable Materials](#): Fact sheets, brochures and other printed pieces along with recorded information available to download, stream and/or print. Included amongst these resources is an Emmy nominated documentary film, demonstrating real New Yorkers sharing their experiences in various stages of recovery. “Reversing the Stigma” is available to watch and share.



**Office of Alcoholism and  
Substance Abuse Services**



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Thank you for your help and support to assist students, individuals, and families. Anyone in need of help for addiction should call the New York State HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY or text: HOPENY (Short code: 467369).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arlene González-Sánchez".

Arlene González-Sánchez, M.S., L.M.S.W.  
Commissioner  
New York State Office of Alcoholism &  
Substance Abuse Services

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MaryEllen Elia".

MaryEllen Elia  
Commissioner of Education  
President of the University of the State of New York