

*Substance use is hurting Marion County students.
Proven programs can help schools improve the well-being of their students.*



By their senior year of high school, 18 percent of students nationwide report having used a prescription drug for a non-medical reason.



Nationwide, nearly 90 percent of smokers start by age 18, and 151,000 Indiana children who are now under the age of 18 will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

Across the nation and in our own state, a handful of schools are playing an important role in the effort to reduce substance use by delivering evidence-based prevention programs in the classroom. These proven programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being. They can also help reduce bullying and violence.

School-based prevention can be part of the solution to our state's substance use crisis. That is why the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, through a new grant initiative called *Prevention Matters*, will award up to \$12 million over three years to Marion County schools to reduce students' substance use. The initiative will give all eligible schools the opportunity to access funding and connect with prevention experts who will provide free, step-by-step guidance to help 1) identify the proven prevention program that best meets the needs of each applicant's students, staff and school environment and 2) develop a plan for sustainable implementation. School leaders can feel confident knowing the programs they select can and will work.

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PREVENTION MATTERS GOALS

- Alleviate barriers to schools in identifying and effectively implementing evidence-based prevention programs;
- Provide support that schools need to implement these programs;
- Help students avoid substance use in the short- and long-term while improving academic and behavioral outcomes;
- Reduce substance use rates in Marion County.

All Marion County public (traditional, charter and innovation network) and accredited private K-12 schools are eligible to participate in *Prevention Matters*. Grants will be awarded in two stages:

PLANNING GRANTS

- Marion County schools can apply for a *Prevention Matters* planning grant to learn more about evidence-based prevention programs and develop detailed plans for effective implementation.
- This phase is non-competitive, meaning that all schools that meet eligibility criteria and apply by **February 16, 2018**, will receive a planning grant in March 2018.
- Only planning grant recipients may apply for implementation funding.



Prevention Matters planning grants will allow applicants to determine whether to pursue an implementation grant and, if so, to develop their implementation grant application. To apply for a planning grant, applicants will need to complete the *Prevention Matters* planning grant online application at RMFF.org/PreventionMatters.

IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

- Marion County schools can apply for three years of *Prevention Matters* funding to implement their plan for an evidence-based prevention program.
- This phase is competitive, meaning grants will be awarded selectively to schools that develop a comprehensive and realistic plan to effectively implement prevention programs and sustain these programs long-term.
- Applications are due by **May 25, 2018**, and grants will be awarded in July 2018.

Visit RMFF.org/PreventionMatters to learn more.

For more information, please contact Foundation staff at PreventionMatters@RMFF.org or 317-663-4185.