

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation Commits More Than \$10.2 Million to Support Drug Prevention Education

Prevention Matters grants projected to serve more than 71,000 Marion County students across 151 schools

INDIANAPOLIS (Aug. 7, 2018) — As the school year begins, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation has approved more than \$10.2 million to help students across 151 Marion County K-12 schools avoid substance use and improve social and emotional well-being.

The 24 grants awarded through the Foundation's **Prevention Matters** initiative will help schools reach an anticipated 71,112 children and teenagers — about 44 percent of all Marion County students — with proven prevention programs by the 2020-2021 school year. The Foundation launched **Prevention Matters**, a three-year initiative to help schools identify, implement and sustain evidence-based substance use prevention programs, in January 2018.

"It was clear from the many thoughtful grant applications and well-conceived plans the Foundation received that schools understand the important role they can play in delivering proven prevention programs to students," said Claire Fiddian-Green, president and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. "The programs funded through **Prevention Matters** will be incorporated into schools' existing schedules and equip teachers and school leaders with tools that help students decrease risky decision-making and improve their overall health and well-being during a critical window in their lives."

The grants come at a time when an adult in Indiana is more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident, and research shows that substance use often begins in middle school and worsens through high school.

Among Central Indiana 8th graders, more than 10 percent report drinking alcohol and five percent report using marijuana in the past 30 days. Among seniors at Central Indiana high schools, 11 percent report smoking cigarettes, 23 percent report using e-cigarettes, 33 percent report drinking alcohol, 20 percent report using marijuana, and five percent report misusing prescription drugs in the past 30 days.

"The City of Indianapolis is proud to partner with the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation on innovative programs to combat the addiction crisis, and **Prevention Matters** is an important part to these efforts," said Indianapolis Mayor Joe Hogsett. "By giving schools this resource, we hope to reach students before they are exposed to harmful or addictive substances, helping to improve the health of our children and the vitality of our city."

Proven prevention programs help address the substance misuse epidemic by equipping students with the skills they need to navigate difficult choices around drug and alcohol use. Such programs can also improve academic achievement, attendance and classroom behavior, and address bullying and in-school violence.

Prevention Matters also seeks to fill a gap in substance use prevention programming across the Indianapolis area. Principals, teachers and other educators care deeply about their students, but due to a lack of information and resources, only 11 percent reported using a proven prevention curriculum, according to a September 2017 survey of Marion County schools.

"Opioid use has reached a crisis level in central Indiana and across the state," said Dr. Lewis Ferebee, superintendent of Indianapolis Public Schools. "IPS is grateful for the generosity of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation. The **Prevention Matters** grant allows us to connect our students with proven resources to help them avoid substance use in both the short- and long-term."

Through **Prevention Matters**, all public and accredited private K-12 schools in Marion County were eligible to apply for non-competitive planning grants of up to \$40,000. Forty-four schools received planning grants in March 2018 and were provided access to expert assistance to help develop detailed plans for implementing evidence-based prevention programs.



Planning grant recipients were then eligible to apply for competitive grants to implement their plans over three years. In addition to funding, schools receiving implementation grants will receive technical assistance over the course of the three-year grant period to get their programs up and running and collect data to evaluate their programs' impact. Grantees also will have the opportunity to work together in cohorts to receive coordinated training and share lessons learned.

"Hoosiers need to work together to address substance use disorder," said Jim McClelland, executive director for drug prevention, treatment, and enforcement for the State of Indiana. "**Prevention Matters** grants help engage Indianapolis youth by incorporating evidence-based prevention programming into the school calendar. I look forward to seeing the ways in which these proven programs will help to reduce students' substance use and save lives."

The 24 grant recipients range from private Catholic schools like Roncalli High School to large Marion County school districts such as Indianapolis Public Schools and the Metropolitan School District of Lawrence Township.

For a full list of grant recipients and funding details, please visit rmff.org/preventionmatters/.

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About the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation

The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation strives to advance the vitality of Indianapolis and the well-being of its people by addressing the city's most significant challenges and opportunities. The Foundation is focused on three issue-areas: education, tobacco and opioid addiction, and the life-sciences. To advance its work, the Foundation implements a three-pronged approach: strategic grantmaking, evidence-based advocacy, and cross-sector collaborations and convenings. Learn more at RMFF.org.



FOR SCHOOL LEADERS

Twitter

- Schools play an important role in combatting the #substanceuse crisis. Glad to see @RMFFIndy supporting Marion County schools to implement evidence-based prevention in the classroom. [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Evidence-based prevention not only helps students avoid drugs & alcohol, but can also improve academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior & social & emotional well-being. Congratulations to the #MarionCounty schools delivering these programs: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters)
- School-based substance use prevention can be part of the solution to the #substanceuse crisis in our city and state. Excited to be among the schools that received funding from @RMFFIndy to implement evidence-based prevention programs: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters)

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- Across the nation and in Indiana, 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. More Marion County schools have been given the opportunity to lead on this front — through the \$10.2M commitment the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation has made to support proven prevention programs in schools through an initiative called Prevention Matters. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity Marion County schools have to change Hoosier students' lives through the implementation of substance use prevention programs that work. Learn more at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).
- School-based substance use prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs and alcohol, but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being. That's why I'm excited my school has received a Prevention Matters grant. This opportunity to implement proven, effective prevention programs will change the lives of our students. Learn more at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).

FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

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- How can #Indy fight #substanceuse? One part of the solution: prevention in schools. A \$10.2M commitment from @RMFFIndy will help 151 #MarionCountySchools implement proven prevention programs. Learn more: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Prevention is one of the strategies we can implement to stop substance use & save lives. I'm excited for #MarionCounty schools to begin the implementation of proven prevention programs this school year: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy
- Encouraged to see this important effort to support schools' work to stop IN's #substanceuse crisis. Students in #MarionCounty schools who now have access to evidence-based prevention programs are less likely to smoke long term or initiate the use of heroin, crack and cocaine: [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) #PreventionMattersIndy

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- Substance use is hurting children, adults, families and communities in Indianapolis and across the state. School-based prevention is an effective long-term strategy to stop substance use and save lives. Through Prevention Matters, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation has committed \$10.2M to Marion County schools to identify and implement proven prevention programs in the classroom. Visit [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters) to learn more.
- School-based substance use prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs and alcohol, but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being. Through Prevention Matters, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation has committed \$10.2M to help Marion County schools deliver proven prevention programs that meet the needs of their students. Learn more at [RMFF.org/PreventionMatters](https://www.rmff.org/PreventionMatters).



FOR PARENTS

Customize the **highlighted** social media copy below to meet your needs.

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- Parents want what's best for their children. School-based prevention is an effective long-term strategy to stop substance use & save lives. I am proud of my child's school and all the Marion County schools that are taking advantage of this program. RMFF.org/PreventionMatters #PreventionMattersIndy
- 18% of students have misused a prescription drug by senior year of HS, & nearly 90% of smokers start by age 18. Not my child! I'm proud of **@SCHOOL (tag)** for taking advantage of this opportunity to stop substance use before it starts! RMFF.org/PreventionMatters #PreventionMattersIndy

Facebook

- We've all seen the heartbreaking consequences of substance misuse, and no parent wants their child to go down that path. School-based prevention programs can equip our kids with skills that help them avoid alcohol and drugs and even improve their performance in school. I'm excited to hear about this new Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation initiative coming to **@SCHOOL (tag)** and all the Marion County schools who will take advantage of this opportunity. Our kids – and our city – need programs like these that work! RMFF.org/PreventionMatters
- PARENTS: You can be a part of the solution to end substance use in Indiana. Too many Americans are dying from the #opioidcrisis, and too many young people are misusing prescription opioids and other drugs. The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation's \$10.2M commitment to help Marion County Schools implement proven prevention programming for students will help us stop substance use before it starts! Share and visit RMFF.org/PreventionMatters.



FOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

Download the Prevention Matters social media graphics at <http://bit.ly/PreventionMatters>.



Proven prevention programs equip students with skills that not only help them avoid drugs and alcohol but can also help improve their academic achievement, attendance, classroom behavior and social and emotional well-being.



PREVENTION
matters

Proven programs to help schools
address substance use

Visit
RMFF.ORG/PREVENTIONMATTERS
to learn more.



In Indiana, an adult is now more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident, and the state's drug overdose rate has increased by more than 500% since 1999.



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11,000 Hoosiers die each year from a smoking-related illness, and 151,000 Indiana children who are now under the age of 18 will ultimately die from smoking.



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FOR ALL SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



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.



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Annually, tobacco use costs Indiana \$7.6 billion, and the opioid epidemic costs the state an additional \$1.5 billion.



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