

Addiction to opioids, tobacco and other drugs plagues our country and state, with devastating human consequences.



Today, Americans are more likely to die from a drug overdose than a car accident, with more than **2,400** overdose deaths in Indiana alone in 2017.



Nearly **29%** of Indiana high school seniors use e-cigarettes. With studies showing that young people who use e-cigarettes are more likely to become smokers later in life, this has the potential to compound Indiana's already serious tobacco problem in years to come.

Research shows that drug use often begins as early as middle school, making early intervention in schools a critical step in combatting Indiana's addiction crises. In 2018, the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation launched *Prevention Matters*, a four-year grant initiative to help Marion County schools identify, implement and sustain proven substance use prevention programs. In addition to navigating difficult choices related to drug and alcohol use, proven prevention programs also have been shown to improve academic achievement, attendance and classroom behavior, address bullying and in-school violence, and promote social-and-emotional well-being.

IMPACT



TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS REACHED AT SCALE
77,500

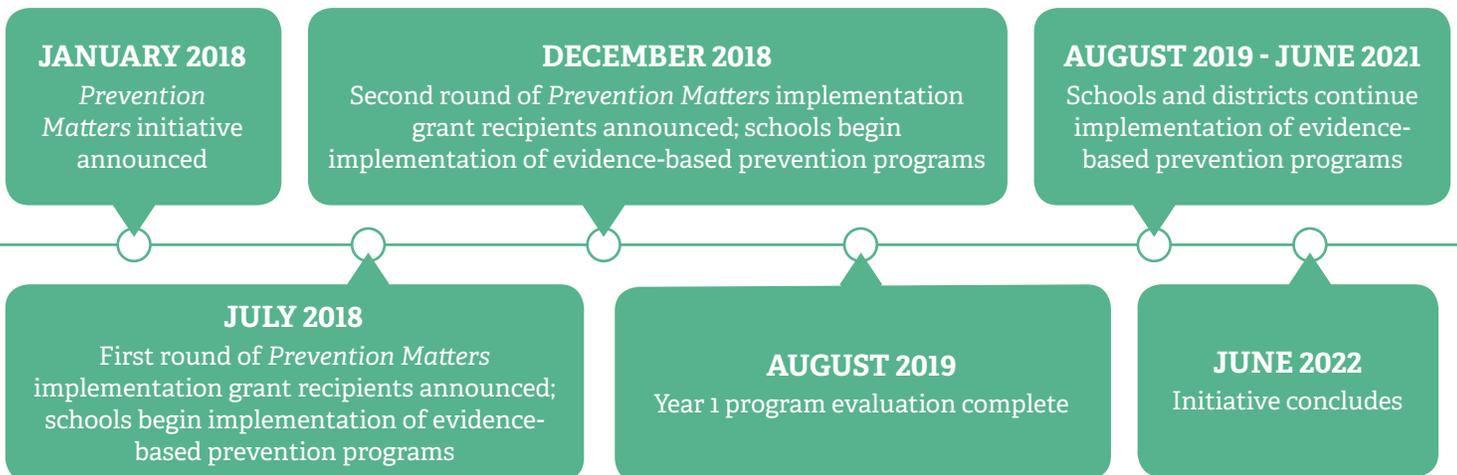


TOTAL ALLOCATED
\$12 MILLION



TOTAL NUMBER OF SCHOOLS INVOLVED AT SCALE
177

TIMELINE



EARLY SUCCESSES

In the first year of implementation, prevention experts trained more than 1,000 implementers (including teachers, guidance counselors and social workers) and launched high-quality prevention programs in 103 schools. Grantees observed initial positive outcomes among students, including strong student engagement in the programs, reduced disciplinary infractions, and improved school culture.

“This program is helping our staff to shape students in a way that will prepare them to address issues that may come up in their lives—whether it is drug misuse, violence or dealing with day-to-day conflict.”

Indianapolis Public Schools

“*Prevention Matters* has played an important role with our students by making them more aware of the power of their decisions. Programming offers them the tools to make smart choices.”

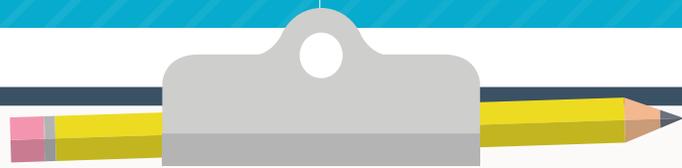
Cardinal Ritter High School

“It is invigorating and inspiring to see how our students have taken to *Prevention Matters* programming. Students ask for the lessons and are excited to share what they are learning with guardians and community members.”

Perry Township Schools

“This program is positively affecting students by allowing for space, time and resources to build awareness and conversation around the critical topic of substance misuse.”

Purdue Polytechnic High School


TIPS FOR SCHOOLS AND DISTRICTS ON EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

1. Involve multiple school team members – counselors, teachers, administrators and more – to coordinate program implementation so there is a strong team supporting change in culture and school practices such as scheduling and curriculum planning. This also ensures continuity in case of staffing turnover.
2. Build buy-in with stakeholders such as teachers, students and parents early in the process and communicate often with these stakeholders.
3. Spend meaningful time training teachers in evidence-based prevention programming. This upfront investment in training will ensure higher quality implementation of curriculum.
4. There are technical assistance providers that can provide expertise to support schools' implementation efforts. The Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation has selected national experts in school-based prevention programs to provide ongoing support to all *Prevention Matters* schools. The schools that take full advantage of technical assistance report higher success rates.
5. In order to achieve the greatest impact, prevention programs must be delivered according to curriculum design standards, such as delivering all lessons in the intended sequence and to the proper grade level and student population.

The lessons learned in Year 1 of *Prevention Matters* have the potential to strengthen the effectiveness and impact of this initiative in the future. They also can bolster other school-based efforts to promote social and emotional learning and prevent substance use. For more information, visit RMFF.org/PreventionMatters.